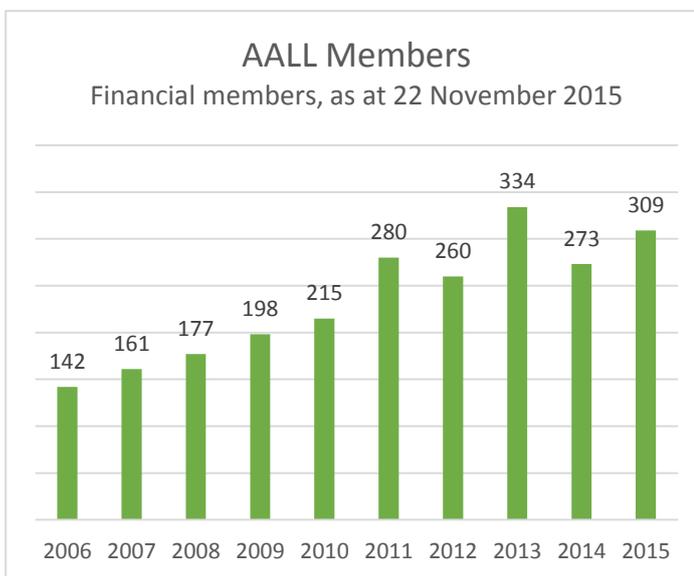


AALL Memberships

As of November 22, AALL had 309 financial members. This is an increase from 2014 and AALL's second biggest year to date.

Although at least two states/territories did not hold any events this year, membership remains strong. However, local events are vital for maintaining local professional connections and support networks, and welcoming new ALL staff into the AALL community. There will be renewed encouragement of local meetings in 2016, and a reminder of the budget support available.



Online membership system

AALL recently introduced a new online system for managing AALL memberships. The new system, provided by Conference Online, allows members to check and update membership details and pay AALL membership fees.

Since the establishment of AALL, membership renewal has been an entirely manual process handled by the Treasurer. This has been very time-consuming and at times challenging, requiring a system of spreadsheets, emails, and paper-based forms that the Treasurer had to manage on top of their day job. For the last two years, AALL has employed a Treasurer's Assistant to help with this process, but technology now allows us to put this online.

Conference Online has been the registration provider for a number of recent AALL events, and have been recommended by those event organisers. Dai Fei Yang, our outgoing AALL Treasurer, has worked with Conference Online closely over the last 6 months to ensure the system meets our needs.

A number of benefits come with this new registration tool:

- Allows members to self-manage membership updates and payments
- Allows the Treasurer to quickly generate and collect data
- Offers a user-friendly and more reliable registration process
- Makes best use of current technology to improve AALL's efficiency and reduce administration
- Continues to provide high-quality service to members

Through 2016, all members will be transitioned into this system as their memberships are renewed.

AALL Executive

Elections for the 2016-2017 AALL Executive were held in September, and a new Executive Committee has been announced (see below).

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Australian Capital Territory | Maya Gunawardena (UNSW Canberra) M.Gunawardena@adfa.edu.au Tess Snowball (ANU) tess.snowball@anu.edu.au |
| New South Wales | Alisa Percy (UoW, continuing) alisa@uow.edu.au Leighana Thornton (ACU) Leighana.Thornton@acu.edu.au |
| Northern Territory | Roz Rowen (CDU) Roz.Rowen@cdu.edu.au Amanda Jansen (CDU) Amanda.Janssen@cdu.edu.au |
| Queensland | Sally Ashton-Hay (SCU, continuing) sally.ashton-hay@scu.edu.au Andrea Lynch (JCU) andrea.lynch@jcu.edu.au |
| South Australia | Rowena Harper (UniSA, continuing) rowena.harper@unisa.edu.au Saib Dianati (Flinders, continuing) saib.dianati@flinders.edu.au |
| Tasmania | Louise Oxley (UTas, continuing) louise.Oxley@utas.edu.au Morag Porteous (UTas, continuing) Morag.Porteous@utas.edu.au |
| Victoria | Fiona Henderson (VU, continuing) Fiona.Henderson@vu.edu.au Miriam White (ACU) Miriam.White@acu.edu.au |
| Western Australia | Maggie McAlinden (Curtin) m.mcalinden@curtin.edu.au Steve Johnson (Murdoch) s.johnson@murdoch.edu.au |

The election of Office Bearers from the Executive will take place at the upcoming Executive Meeting on 25 November, and will be announced shortly afterwards.

Thank you to the outgoing Executive members for their contributions to AALL and the work of the Executive committee from 2013 – 2015. A number of people will be continuing on in the new Executive committee, but the following members will be stepping down:

- From the ACT, Sage Leslie McCarthy (ANU) and Peter Copeman (UC)
- From NSW, Dai Fei Yang (WSU)
- From NT, Linh Pallos (CDU)
- From QLD, Peter Nelson (QUT)
- From VIC, Robin Yucel (LaTrobe)
- From WA, Patricia Dooley (Curtin) and Anne Harris (ECU)
- AALL Public Officer, Alex Barthel

Thanks to each of you for your professional generosity. Your advice, support and collegiality has been much appreciated, and will be missed.

Particular thanks go Alex Barthel, who will be stepping down from his Public Officer role this year. Alex has been integral to the Association since its inception and his absence will really be felt. Dai Fei Yang will also be stepping down from her role as Treasurer. On behalf of members, I am deeply

grateful for the work she has put into the role, and particularly in establishing an online membership system before her departure – something that will have real lasting benefit for the Association. David Rowland continues to provide advice and guidance on all financial matters without formal recognition, and will support the new Treasurer as they learn the role. Thank you yet again David for your ongoing support of AALL.

AALL Grants

AALL funded a total of four grants this year.

1. Theoretical frameworks informing in-discipline language development: transforming perceptions and practice (UOW and UTS)
2. A national stock take of numeracy provision in enabling courses in Australian Higher Education (UoN)
3. John Grierson Grant (Dr Carolyn Malkin, Deakin)
4. Travel Grant (David Kasakeijan-Ross, CSU)

No event grants were funded this year, and did not feature heavily in applications. There will be a renewed campaign in 2016 to encourage local AALL members to organise opportunities to get together, either via small, informal meetings or more formal themed events.

Although many AALL Grant applications were received, the assessment panels have been disappointed in the quality of the applications. If applicants present with a good idea and have made a genuine attempt to address the criteria, the panel will typically provide some detailed feedback and invite resubmission. Many of our successful projects have received funding this way. Unfortunately, many applications have not adequately addressed the criteria – an important indicator in itself as to whether the applicants can acquit AALL funds effectively.

AALL encourages any members interested in applying for a grant to contact the President or Vice-President for some advice about putting together a good application. We can provide exemplar applications, examples of common feedback from panels, and may be able to offer feedback on a draft (depending on demand).

More details about AALL Grants are available in the Vice-President's Grants Report.

National Contributions

AALL provided feedback on the Government's Draft International Education Strategy and on that basis was invited to participate in the second of two roundtable discussions in Canberra in August. Around 100 people participated on the day, including Vice Chancellors DVCs, PVCs, student representatives and other non-university stakeholders.

Discussions remained broad, focussed on finalising the mission statement and priorities. The main message from participants was that the strategy needed to extend its scope beyond the domestic, economic benefits of international education. A new mission statement was drafted which emphasised the *mutual* benefits of international education for individuals, communities and the economy.

It was encouraging to see that the government had positioned English language proficiency as a curriculum issue, rather than a student services or support issue. The 100 attendees were grouped

into tables of 10 according to theme or broad interest area. AALL was positioned on the student experience table, which included both curricular and co-curricular experiences. When the issue of English language proficiency was raised, it was noted as a matter of concern particularly for those sitting on Table 1, however: Senior Leaders and Quality Regulators. Though I was disappointed to miss out on this conversation, it was an encouraging sign of a changing conversation about English language.

The final draft of the strategy is yet to be released, but the draft can be accessed here:

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/International-network/Australia/InternationalStrategy/Pages/National-Strategy.aspx>

Although a number of universities are undergoing restructure, AALL was not invited to make any institutional submissions this year on behalf of ALL staff. I continue to urge anyone experiencing restructure of ALL roles to contact AALL about making a submission; in my view, it's one of the Association's most important functions and a critical benefit for members.

International relationships

The establishment of ICALLD – the International Consortium of Academic Language and Learning Developers – has been an exciting step for AALL, and the group has continued to meet this year to plan ways of connecting our organisations and members. AALL's Vice-President, Sally Ashton Hay, has joined the Steering Committee, along with additional members from each of the other organisations.

A number of initiatives are being discussed, including:

- Member exchanges
- Joint research projects
- An international database of ALL practice and research

The first initiative will be an online symposium, held on 27-28 January 2016, showcasing a small collection of papers from the members of each association. There was some discussion about how to select papers for the symposium. ICALLD members are particularly interested in our database of practice and research, so Bronwyn James and Judy Maxwell have kindly agreed to present a webinar on this topic. AALL is fortunate to have a conference in November, at which delegates will be invited to nominate their favourite papers across a range of categories. AALL will therefore invite the authors of these papers to develop them as webinars for the inaugural ICALLD symposium.

The other associations will collate their contributions in a range of ways, but we will certainly have a representative and exciting mix of papers for our first international discussion.

Rowena Harper

President, Association for Academic Language and Learning