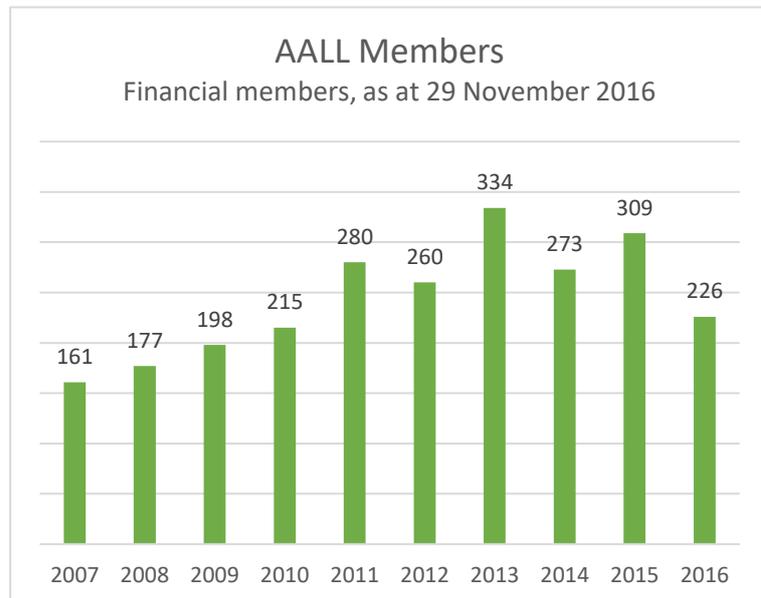


### AALL Memberships

As of November 29, AALL had 226 financial members. This is a decrease from 2015, and the smallest membership since 2010. It continues the trend of falling membership numbers in non-conference years.

It demonstrates the ongoing importance of additional events – both local and national – for maintaining professional connections and support networks, and welcoming new ALL staff into the AALL community, particularly in non-conference years.



### Online membership system

In 2015, I reported on the introduction of 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.

I would like to thank members for their patience as we have transitioned to the new system. Although it hasn't been without hiccups, the new system provides a far more streamlined approach for members. I would like to extend particular thanks to Joseph Yeo, the AALL Treasurer, who with support from David Rowland and Dai Fei Yang has worked so hard behind the scenes to ensure the smoothest transition possible.

### AALL Executive

At the time of last year's annual report, the AALL Executive had been elected, but Office Bearers had not. This election took place on 25 November 2015, and the Office Bearers are as follows:

- President – Rowena Harper (UniSA, continuing) [rowena.harper@unisa.edu.au](mailto:rowena.harper@unisa.edu.au)
- Vice-President – Sally Ashton-Hay (SCU, continuing) [sally.ashton-hay@scu.edu.au](mailto:sally.ashton-hay@scu.edu.au)
- Treasurer – Joseph Yeo (UTS) [joseph.yeo@uts.edu.au](mailto:joseph.yeo@uts.edu.au)
- Secretary – Fiona Henderson (VU, continuing) [Fiona.Henderson@vu.edu.au](mailto:Fiona.Henderson@vu.edu.au)
- Public Officer – Leighana Thornton (ACU) [Leighana.Thornton@acu.edu.au](mailto:Leighana.Thornton@acu.edu.au)

Tess Snowball is our new Web Manager, and Alisa Percy, Roz Rowen and Saib Dianati are together producing the AALL newsletter. In addition, the Executive appointed AALL's inaugural President, Alex Barthel, as Senior Counsel to AALL. He joins Kate Chanock in this role.

### AALL Grants

AALL funded a total of four project grants this year.

1. Human and computer impressions of written texts: How can their comparison inform approaches to assessment? (Ingrid Wijeyewardene, UNE)
2. Promoting National Collaboration among ALL Centres: Creating a Sustainable Future (Elena Verezub, Swinburne and Fiona Henderson, VU)
3. Building capacity for the design, validation and implementation of post-entry language assessments (PELAs) (Maggie McAlinden, Curtin)
4. Enhancing doctoral learning: Empowering supervisors to give effective writing-related feedback to multilingual doctoral scholars writing in English as an Additional Language (Monica Behrend, UniSA and Meeta Chatterjee-Padmanabhan, UoW).

In addition, two travel grants were funded for travel to AALL events for Pamela Martin-Lynch (Murdoch) and Amanda Janssen (CDU).

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

### AALL Contributions

In 2016, a number of ALL units have experienced restructures, or been advised of approaching organisational change. AALL was invited by members at Western Sydney University to make a submission to an organisational change proposal that sought to discontinue the Hub for Academic Literacy and Learning (HALL), disestablish the roles of the Academic Literacy Lecturers, and relocate responsibilities for academic literacy to a team of professionally classified staff located in the Library. AALL submitted a response that provided a range of alternatives, however the change progressed as proposed.

I continue to urge anyone experiencing restructure of ALL roles to contact AALL about the proposed change, and if requested, AALL can make a submission; in my view, it's one of the Association's most important functions and a critical benefit for members.

### International relationships

ICALLD – the International Consortium of Academic Language and Learning Developers – held its first event this year: an online symposium for sharing practice and research, hosted by the Learning Specialist Association of Canada (LSAC). There were 181 registrations, and feedback was received from about 70 people.

Feedback was generally very positive, particularly with regard to the opportunity it offered to talk with international colleagues. Areas for improvement included scheduling, which was a significant challenge given the various time zones involved, and recording of sessions.

The next symposium is scheduled for late Jan/early Feb 2017 and hosted by ALDinHE (UK). A firm date and further details will be available soon. Please be on the lookout for the call for papers.

AALL will soon commence a project with our international colleagues in ICALLD to extend the AALL database of practice and research to include international practice. The capacity to benchmark within Australia – an important function of the current database – will be retained, but members will also be able to explore practice and research internationally with institutions in the UK, Canada and

New Zealand. This project will be guided by Bronwyn James and Judy Maxwell, who developed the current AALL database and its previous iterations. We will keep you updated about this project as it progresses.

An ongoing topic of interest for all organisations is professional identity and professional development. A range of research projects are underway in both the UK, Australia and Canada to identify the kinds of qualifications and experience ALL practitioners have. Some of our partner organisations are interested in establishing a 'credential' of sorts for the profession, and are investigating various ways of managing that. I will continue to update you on these movements.

Rowena Harper

President, Association for Academic Language and Learning