



## eNSWALNC 2021 Number One

This is the electronic newsletter of the NSW Adult Literacy and Numeracy Council.

It is sent to all of its members.

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1. NSWALNC Zoom Pam Osmond Book launch by Mary Hamilton  
6.00-7.00 pm Thursday 25 March 2021

Pamela Osmond's book *Developing Social Equity in Australian Adult Education: Lessons from the Past*, based on her research on the history of Adult Basic Education in NSW will be published by Routledge on 8 March. We are delighted that Professor Mary Hamilton (Lancaster University) has accepted our invitation to launch the book. Professor Hamilton's extensive and influential work in adult literacy will be known to many of you.

Please join us for a virtual launch on 25 March, 6 pm to 7 pm. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/BPDJS> or <https://www.trybooking.com/722896>

<https://www.routledge.com/Developing-Social-Equity-in-Australian-Adult-Education-Lessons-from-the/Osmond/p/book/9780367689841>

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### 2. Policy update

There is much happening in the policy space that is likely to impact on our field.

The Productivity Commission has completed its Inquiry **into Skills and Workforce Development Agreement** to which the NSW ALNC had made two sets of submissions and had a follow up Zoom meeting with the Commissioners. Their

report is published at <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/skills-workforce-agreement/report>

In their high level summary, they say:

There should be a coordinated national strategy to improve school education, 'second-chance' learning in the VET sector and other adult education services to reduce the large number of Australians with low language, literacy, numeracy and digital literacy skills.

To address some of the key obstacles to lifelong learning, this report proposes improvements in foundation skills, better credit pathways, an expansion of VSL and a trial of a new financing instrument for mature-age Australians reskilling and upskilling.

Following the release of the Productivity Commissions' report, the House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training opened an inquiry into adult literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills in Australia, with the Terms of Reference including:

- The relationship between adult literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills and socio-demographic characteristics, particularly migrant status, First Nations status and individuals living in households that have experienced intergenerational unemployment;
- The effect that literacy and numeracy skills have on an individual's labour force participation and wages;
- Links between literacy and social outcomes such as health, poverty, ability to care for other family members and participation in civic life;
- The relationship between parents' literacy skills and their children's education and literacy skill development from birth to post-secondary education;
- Whether changes to schooling in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 will have a disproportionate impact on the skill development of those children of parents with lower literacy and numeracy levels, and, if yes, consideration of appropriate remediation programs which might address this;
- The availability, impact and effectiveness of adult literacy and numeracy educational programs in Australia and internationally; and
- International comparisons of government policies and programs that may be adapted to the Australian experience.

Further information

at: [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Employment\\_Education\\_and\\_Training/Adultliteracy/Terms\\_of\\_Reference](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Employment_Education_and_Training/Adultliteracy/Terms_of_Reference)

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### 3. Adults Learning Mathematics virtual seminar series

Adults Learning Mathematics is an international research forum for researchers and practitioners who want to engage in current research in adult mathematics and numeracy. They are hosting a series of webinar, the next one on 25 February (UK time, 26 February Australia time) will be presented by Professor Marta Civil on the topic of: **“We also think and solve problems”**: **Mathematical conversations with immigrant adults**. Information about the series and registration at:<https://alm-online.net/alm-2020-virtual-seminar-series/>

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#### 4. Save the Date – NSWALNC Annual Conference – Monday 6 December 2021

The NSWALNC 2021 Conference will be held Monday 6 December. Watch this space and [nswalnc.org.au](http://nswalnc.org.au) for further details.

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#### 5. Call for Help - Communic'Action coalition - improving public health communications for adults with lower levels of literacy in Québec

The Communic'Action coalition aims to improve public health communications so that it can be more accessible to adults with lower levels of literacy in Québec, Canada. The coalition includes community-based organisations, public health services, and universities.

The coalition would like to learn from existing practices in other countries and Canadian provinces and are calling on you to help us identify recent practices, policies or research that encourage accessible public communications. These may include:

- Policies, principles or guidelines for making communications accessible (produced by governments or the media);
- Laws on accessible public communications, and public health communications more specifically;
- Recent efforts to make public communications about COVID-19 more accessible (e.g. simplified information on COVID-19 delivered by the state);
- Research findings on the impact of these recent efforts.

We would be very grateful if you could send us hyperlinks, PDF or World documents before the 19th of March 2021.

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## 5. Renew your membership now

The Council relies on our modest membership income and a lot of volunteer time of Committee members to do our work. Please support our work by renewing your membership for 2021.

Individual yearly membership is \$50 and organisational membership is \$80.

You can pay by credit card at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BMOQM> or by Bank transfer (NSWALNC's BSB is: 633-000 and the Account Number is 155977390) or by sending us a cheque. Your individual membership entitles you to attend the NSWALNC seminars for free and to receive the discount rate for NSWALNC conferences. Organisational Membership entitles 3 people to attend seminars for free and discount for 3 people at NSWALNC conferences.

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## 6. Subscribe to eNSWALNC

Send an email with the subject 'subscribe to eNSWALNC' to and we will put you on the list to receive this monthly newsletter.

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## 7. Unsubscribe

Send an email with subject 'unsubscribe to eNSWALNC' to <http://nswalnc@gmail.com> and we'll take you off the list.

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## 8. Contact NSWALNC

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