

# ace

## Adult Community Education

A Strategy for all Western Australians  
2004 - 2008

Making Connections through Lifelong Learning



Department of  
Education and Training

ace  
Adult Community Education



MAKING CONNECTIONS

# message from the minister

As a strong supporter of lifelong learning I am very pleased to see the development of the 2004 to 2008 Adult Community Education Strategy for all Western Australians.

The economic and social benefits of community based lifelong learning activities are well documented and recognised across the world. Individuals benefit through learning new skills and our communities benefit through greater social interaction, well-being and sense of purpose.

Adult Community Education is often considered to be the fourth sector of education, alongside school, vocational education and training and university and has been providing lifelong learning opportunities across Australia for many years.

The great strengths of ACE include its flexibility, the ability to respond quickly to the interests and needs of individuals and communities and the provision of non-competitive learning in a welcoming, friendly and encouraging environment. In addition, ACE offers highly supportive pathways into learning, further education and training and employment for individuals from many cultural, social and educational backgrounds, who may not otherwise engage in lifelong learning. These include young adults, single parents, mature-aged and retirees.

The ACE Strategy 2004 to 2008 has been developed by the Department of Education and Training in partnership with the Department's ACE Advisory Committee and the broader ACE community. It supports the four national goals for adult community education and provides a focal point and catalyst for the further development of lifelong learning strategies.

I believe that the ACE sector, through the WA ACE strategy and in partnership with all levels of government, community organisations and industry, will play an increasing role in developing and sustaining healthy vibrant communities.

Congratulations to those individuals and organisations involved in producing this document and who actively participate in and deliver community education and lifelong learning.

Alan Carpenter MLA  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING

share in the value of  
lifelong learning



# adult community education

Adult Community Education or ACE is about adults learning in different ways and places.

Adult Community Education occurs in community centres, at TAFE evening classes, through Telecentres, when a group of locals get together to form an action group and when friends meet to share their skills or knowledge.

Adult Community Education is any learning that is non-accredited and occurs in a community setting.

That is, it is any learning that does not result in a formal credential under the Australian Qualifications Framework (such as a Certificate III or a university credential).



## The Adult Community Education Strategy

This strategy is a state-wide policy which aims to support and enhance Adult Community Education in Western Australia.

It was developed by the Department of Education and Training's Adult Community Education Advisory Committee after consultation with learners, tutors and providers across the state. It is written for all Western Australians involved in Adult Community Education, especially Adult Community Education providers and their paid and unpaid workers.

# ong learning



## Building on Current Strengths

This Strategy builds on the many strengths and successes of Adult Community Education in Western Australia over the years.

These strengths include:

- ★ accessible and inclusive learning opportunities
- ★ enabling individuals to share their skills and knowledge with others in a supportive environment
- ★ welcoming environments and non-threatening, non-competitive learning
- ★ enhancing individual relationships and community partnerships
- ★ learner and community-driven learning
- ★ valuing learning for its own sake
- ★ introducing people to the pleasures of lifelong learning
- ★ offering pathways to further education, training and employment for some learners
- ★ building communities through learning.

In many ways, these strengths are also the key principles underpinning all Adult Community Education.

They reflect and embody the values of those involved in Adult Community Education.

## The Vision for Western Australia

By 2008 the Adult Community Education (ACE) movement in Western Australia will be even more exciting, diverse and inclusive. ACE will play a key role in developing and sustaining healthy and vibrant communities.

Government at all levels (federal, state and local), corporations and community members will be active participants in ACE and will understand and promote the value of lifelong learning.

## The Goals

The ACE movement in Western Australia supports the four national goals and enabling strategies for Adult Community Education endorsed by Ministers for Education, Employment Training and Youth Affairs in 2002.

In developing the goals for Western Australia, the four national goals were placed into a state context and transformed into eight goals specific to the needs and wishes of Western Australians.

These goals, with some supporting strategies, are noted in the diagram overleaf.

## Implementing the Strategy

The ACE Strategy 2004-2008 will be implemented through a partnership between the Department of Education and Training and the ACE sector. The ACE Advisory Committee will take a lead role in driving the implementation process.

The Strategy can be implemented at three levels.

### ★ Level 1

The Department of Education and Training, working in collaboration with the ACE Advisory Committee, will implement State-wide policy initiatives based on the strategy goals.

The main focus of the Department is to support the activities of ACE providers. Implementation of the State strategies will be undertaken after consultation with ACE providers.

### ★ Level 2

ACE providers will be able to implement strategies to support the goals as and when they see fit. Their work will be supported by the state-wide policy initiatives undertaken by the Department of Education and Training.

### ★ Level 3

Individuals such as tutors, learners, volunteers and community members will be able to implement strategies to support the goals and to meet their own needs.

The example in the diagram overleaf provides some indication of how the ACE Strategy could be implemented in a collaborative and effective way.

### Strategy Evaluation

The ACE Strategy will be evaluated based on the performance indicators developed in consultation with the ACE sector.

Adult Community Education will play a key role in developing and sustaining healthy and vibrant communities.



the heart of learning  
the heart of the community

# ace strategy 2004-2008

## The Vision

By 2008 the Adult Community Education movement in Western Australia will be even more exciting, diverse and inclusive.

Adult Community Education will play a key role in developing and sustaining healthy and vibrant communities.

Government, including federal, state and local government, corporations and community members will be active participants in Adult Community Education and will understand and promote the value of lifelong learning.



## National Goals

Expand and sustain innovative community-based learning models

Raise awareness and understanding of the role and importance of ACE

Improve the quality of ACE learning experiences and outcomes

Extend participation in community-based learning



## State Goals

Enhance the capacity of community based organisations to deliver ACE

Raise public awareness of the learning opportunities offered by ACE

Improve ACE providers' and tutors' access to information and skills development

Increase the diversity of learners and communities using ACE, especially Indigenous learners and learners with a disability

Enhance cross-government awareness of and support for ACE

Extend ACE providers' identification with the ACE movement

Improve the quality and accessibility of information available about ACE opportunities and movement from ACE to further education

Expand the contribution of ACE in creating socially inclusive communities



## Supporting State Strategies

Research options for resourcing ACE providers and provide information to providers on sustainable funding options

Develop State-wide strategies to integrate ACE with other government initiatives

Promote the role of ACE to federal, state and local government and corporate bodies

Support ACE providers in rural, remote and regional localities to provide learning opportunities

Support the establishment of partnerships between ACE providers, industry, federal, state and local government and communities

Research the value of ACE to ACE providers and the community

Support Adult Learners' Week and other national initiatives

Develop marketing and branding campaigns to support ACE providers

Promote the role of ACE in helping individuals and communities to manage change positively

Establish a clearinghouse for information relevant to ACE

Update the ACE providers' database

Establish an ACE access point for learners

Provide skills and information to ACE providers and tutors

Develop a skills recognition model for ACE participants

Provide skills to tutors on creating inclusive and accessible learning environments

Provide information and resources to support the inclusion of diverse learners, especially people with disabilities, Indigenous people and people from diverse cultural and language backgrounds

Promote the involvement of ACE activities in community and cultural development projects



## Example of Implementation Approach

**National Goal:** Raise awareness and understanding of the role and importance of ACE

**State Goal:** Raise public awareness of the learning opportunities offered by ACE

Department of Education and Training and ACE Advisory Committee initiatives might include:

- supporting Adult Learners' Week
- developing State-wide marketing campaigns
- offering ACE providers training on marketing
- undertaking research on community awareness of ACE.

ACE provider initiatives might include:

- developing partnerships with other local ACE providers and doing joint marketing
- sending key staff to training in marketing
- trialing new marketing initiatives
- participating in Adult Learners' Week initiatives.

Individual tutor initiatives might include:

- applying for Adult Learners' Week awards in order to promote courses
- developing targeted marketing material for key client groups
- developing new skills in marketing.

Evaluation might involve:

- data collection on community awareness of ACE
- take up of training and development initiatives
- data collection by ACE providers on ACE participation and growth of new client groups.



**PRODUCED BY:**

The Department of Education and Training through its ACE Advisory Committee and in consultation with the ACE Sector.

**SUPPORTED BY:**

The Telecentre Support Network, Learning Centre Link, Adult Learning Australia, ACROD (WA), Department of Justice, Department of Agriculture, Disability Services Commission, UWA Extension, Council on the Ageing and TAFEWA.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

VET Access Branch, Department of Education and Training  
Phone: (08) 9264 5091  
Website [www.training.wa.gov.au/training/content-EARN.asp](http://www.training.wa.gov.au/training/content-EARN.asp)



MAKING CONNECTIONS



Department of  
Education and Training