



Association 澳大利亞學漢語協會
for Learning Mandarin in Australia Inc.

Annual General Meeting of the Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia Inc.

Wednesday 29 October 2025, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre
50 Ainsworth Street, Mawson ACT 2607

President's Report 2024-2025

Introduction

The 2024-25 year has been one of significant transition and challenge for ALMA.

I became President in May 2025 following the resignation of the previous president during a particularly demanding period for our organisation.

Key Achievements

Director Recruitment and Transition

With Annette's retirement, we conducted a recruitment process that resulted in appointing Juliana as our new Centre Director. We received more than 20 applications and conducted professional interviews. Fortunately, we managed to secure the best candidate for the centre.

HR Policy Development

Over the past few years, we have completed a review of CAECC's HR policies and procedures through engagement with an external specialist HR consultant. This work strengthened our frameworks and established clearer processes for staff.

More work will be needed to ensure they remain up to date given the recent legal changes in this space

Grant Application

After extensive preparation, we successfully lodged our application for the Early Childhood Worker Retention Grant in June 2025. The application process was complex, requiring legal advice and financial analysis over several months.

I'm pleased to confirm that grant funds have been received and our educators are now receiving their well-deserved pay rises.

Community Connections

Throughout 2024-25, ALMA strengthened its community connections through continued support for our weekly radio program on 2XX Community Radio.

Website and Communication Updates

The CAECC website was updated with new design and functionality, enhancing our communication with families.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank the exceptional individuals who contributed beyond their expected roles (in no particular order):

1. **Brendon Gittins** deserves particular recognition for his outstanding support as Secretary and for agreeing to serve as Acting President during my August and in October in my absence due to personal reasons. He also modernised ALMA's communications and membership systems, significantly improving our ability to reach and engage with families.
2. **Rachel Qiu** provided crucial financial expertise, conducting detailed budget analysis for our grant application and fee increase decisions.
3. **June Cheah** provided valuable advocacy work throughout the year and contributed to the director recruitment process that brought Juliana to CAECC.
4. **Laura Wellman** served as Assistant Treasurer throughout the year, providing financial support and contributing to HR subcommittee work.
5. **Jenny Eather** served as a general member throughout the year, providing support to committee operations.
6. **Juliana Teaurima** stepped into the Director role during challenging circumstances and has demonstrated remarkable leadership and professionalism in stabilising our operations and improving staff relations.
7. **Annette Chemin**, after six years as Centre Director, managed her retirement transition professionally, ensuring continuity of care and education quality.
8. **Mandy Scott** has provided decades of service to ALMA, including previous service as President. Her institutional knowledge, ongoing commitment to our 2XX radio program, and steadying presence as Public Officer have been invaluable.
9. **Adelina Tan** served as President for 18 months before stepping down in May 2025. We thank her for her service during a demanding period.
10. **Chiewyi Lian** has maintained our weekly 2XX radio program throughout the year, promoting Mandarin learning in the ACT community every Friday evening alongside Mandy.
11. **Melyn Roberts and Joey Van Ngo** led the excellent CAECC website redesign that went live in July. Their modern, professional website has significantly improved our centre's public image.
12. **Katrin Praseli** served as a general member throughout the year, attending meetings and contributing to committee decisions.
13. **Tina Jong** served as a committee member throughout the year, supporting the committee's work.

14. **Margareta Sugianto** served on the committee until her departure during the year. We thank her for her contributions.

Looking Forward

ALMA is in a strong position with excellent leadership in Juliana. The incoming committee inherits a robust organisation with strong financial position.

Key priorities for the new committee include ensuring Juliana has the operational support she needs; keeping our policies current with regulatory changes; and returning to our roots by actively promoting Mandarin language learning and cultural connection in our community.

Conclusion

While this year presented significant challenges, it also demonstrated ALMA's resilience and the dedication of our volunteers, educators, and families.

I am confident that ALMA will continue to thrive under new leadership.

Matthew Brazel

Outgoing President, ALMA 2024-25