



澳大利亞學漢語協會

Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia Inc.

Annual General Meeting of the Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia Inc. President's Report 2022-2023

Outline of the Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia (ALMA) objectives
ALMA is a non-profit organisation that was established in 1984. ALMA's fundamental objectives, as set out in its constitution are:

- To further the use and learning of the Chinese language in Australia.
- To promote awareness and understanding of Chinese culture and heritage in Australian society.
- To set up and operate bilingual Chinese and English educational and child-care facilities.

ALMA raises funds through financial memberships to ALMA as well as through the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre (CAECC), which it owns and operates.

Summary of CAECC related activities:

2022-2023 saw the Committee spent time working on:

- Reviewing the finances of CAECC in light of increased operational costs and increases brought out Fair Work Australia.
- Assisting management team with staff recruitment and updating equipment and technology within the Centre.
- Upgrades to the Centre's playgrounds.

CAECC Staffing

Staffing has been a continual challenge in the early childhood sector. At the beginning of the financial year CAECC was faced with a staffing crisis due to lack of available staff to recruit and cover the changes within the Centre.

With Cynthia on maternity leave, there was an increase in the management team spending time on the floor to continue established planning and programming times for staff.

Serena Lin has led the Infants and Toddler room, in Cynthia's absence.

We have recruited a new full time staff member, Amandeep Kaur. There is a new permanent part time staff member Leah Liu as well as two new casual educators, Jialin Liu and Florence Sidewinder.

Annette and Jingjing have worked tirelessly this year to ensure that our staffing was meeting the required standards as well as conducting thorough recruitment processes for new staff.

Non-CAECC activities

Outside of the CAECC, ALMA is involved in the following activities:

- The presentation of a program on community radio station 2XX every Friday from 7pm to 7:30pm that promotes the use and learning of Mandarin in the ACT and informs the community, especially the Chinese speaking community, about local events and other information of interest. Children can also enjoy a bedtime story in Mandarin.
- The Mandarin Community Tutoring project, which brings together fluent speakers of Mandarin and other members of the ACT community who wish to improve their knowledge of Mandarin and or understanding of Chinese Culture (at no cost).
- Continued collaboration with Mawson Primary School.

What's in store for 2022-2023?

- Continue to strengthen ties with the Chinese community, including resuming engagement in cultural events.
- Continue the 2XX weekly radio program.
- Maintain ALMA's assets and income to ensure the CAECC remains financially viable.

Thank you and Committee recommendations

The 2022-2023 Committee consisted dynamic mix of new and existing committee members which provided a diverse array of skills.

In particular I would like to thank:

- Cassandra Estrin for her excellent work as Vice President and bringing .
- Tina Jong for the excellent work as Secretary
- Dr Amanda Scott for her work and commitment to the Committee, not only in this last 12 months but in the many years previous.
- Chiewyi Lian for her work and advice she provided to the Committee.
- Adelina Tan for her help and advice to the Committee and working to build the Centre's catalogue of Chinese literature.
- Margareta Sugianto for her assistant and advice to the Committee, even after her child had moved to Kindergarten.
- Teck Chi Wong for his work on the ALMA newsletter.
- Annette Chemin for her hard work and continued dedication to CAECC.

Charlotte Foster
President, ALMA
24 October 2023