

AUSIT New South Wales Branch Delegate's Annual Report

July 2021

The elected NSW Branch Delegate on the AUSIT National Council (NC) for 2020 to 2021 was Mr Shiyi Ye (Sydney). Sydney has attended the National Council monthly meetings and NSW Branch Committee monthly meetings where he presented monthly NC reports to the NSW Branch. Sydney has also provided feedback to the NC with respect to a number of issues from the NSW Branch Committee. Please see below a list of decisions and actions taken by the NC between November 2020 and July 2021.

- The NC has moved to create the senior member category, which will eventually replace the existing senior practitioner category, but existing senior practitioners can continue to renew their current membership status, although they will be encouraged to transition to the new category. No new senior practitioners will be accepted. The main reasons are: 1. That NAATI currently plays the role of ensuring practitioners meet their practising hours/number of words; 2. AUSIT never did police this requirement with regards to the SP category in any case; and 3. The new Senior Member category rewards AUSIT members who contribute actively to AUSIT. The new membership category will not cost more than the regular membership.
- The NC has updated the Professional Development (PD) costing tool which has been formalized as the standard process for all PD events and members responsible for PD events in all branch committees have been inducted.
- The NC has approved updated guidelines for the Mentoring Program, which has been published on the AUSIT website.
- The NC has moved amendments to the by-laws which were adopted by the membership, and created one extra Vice President position responsible for Events and Professional Development.
- The NC has resolved to continue offering discounted membership in recognition of the possible ongoing impact on members owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021-2022 fee for ordinary members stands at \$110.
- The NC has resolved to renew its FIT membership for the current year.
- The NC has resolved to promote the Recommended National Standards via a series of webinars with funding from NAATI.
- The NC has set up a Community Translation Working Group, and protocols with respect to quality standards in government/community translations, particularly in relation to COVID were created and sent to LSPs and ministers for feedback.
- The 2021 National Conference will be held from 19 to 21 November 2021 in Perth as a hybrid event with both online and small-scale face-to-face activities.
- AUSIT has received requests for participation in and to send representatives in projects led by the National Ethnic Disability Alliance.
- AUSIT has published a position paper on health in consultation with the Australian Medical Association in relation to uncertified interpreters being used for public health work.
- As a reciprocal movement, AUSIT has called for and sent three representatives to the annual conference of the New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters.

- AUSIT joined a working group set up by the Domestic Violence Death Review Team together with NAATI and other stakeholders to review the AUSIT Code of Ethics and explore further PD to raise awareness, appropriate behaviours and sensitivities regarding domestic violence.
- AUSIT is in the process of publishing a petition for the use of technology in court to further raise awareness and urge courts to provide interpreters with the basic conditions needed to perform their duties. Among these is the use of portable simultaneous interpreting equipment for use in court.
- The NC has resolved to increase the number for Student Excellence Awards for affiliate institutions to 4 students across all institutions, one per program.
- The NC has revived the Ethics and Professional Practice Committee that will meet regularly to address issues in relation to ethical behaviour and professional practice.
- AUSIT has been well underway with respect to implementing the 2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan, in particular in relation to hosting more PD events for members and interested colleagues, promoting better working conditions and AUSIT membership status, attracting new members to the Organization and gaining enough exposure on various media outlets.