



## AUSIT SA/NT Annual General Meeting held on 21 September 2022

<b>Date:</b> 21 September 2022 (Wednesday) at 7:30 pm		<b>Place:</b> Zoom meeting
<b>Present:</b> Alicia Rex Amanda Tan Caroline Sanders Deborah Kalei Doris Dong Gabriela Kuzio Haleh Khazrai Hana Shakir Hanh the Vien Jessica Nguyen Joe Van Dalen Ludmila Berkis Margareta Rebelos Marina Morgan	<b>Present:</b> Monisa Yaser Myint Than Ningfei Dang Rezvaneh Niazi Shekoofeh Naderi Sudas Nouman Abdul Jadier Tek Bahadur Rai Tets Kimura Trung Khanh Lam Vesna Poljak Xinyu Zhang Yee Jan Ng Yi Pan	<b>Apologies:</b> Ning Zhang Shahin Entesari-Tatafi Susan Jover
<b>SA/NT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>		
<b>1. Welcome</b> The Chair, Joe van Dalen welcomed all present.		
<b>2. Minutes of last meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes are available on the AUSIT website, consisting of Chairperson's Report, BD Report and re-election of the committee.</li></ul>		
<b>3. AUSIT Awards to students from the University of Adelaide</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Due to technical issues, Dr. Ning Zhang from the University of Adelaide was unable to log onto the Zoom meeting.</li><li>The award recipients were announced; they are Mr. Chengjun Huang and Ms. Yaze Zhu, who are given one year of free AUSIT membership for the academic excellence they have achieved in their Master of Interpreting, Translation and Transcultural Communication course at the University of Adelaide.</li></ul>		
<b>4. Chairperson's Report (including NT Report, Membership Report and Branch Delegate's Report)</b> <p>Welcome to you all in these continuing and unusual circumstances and times. Thank you for taking the time to be with us at this moment on Zoom.</p> <p>Despite the pandemic restrictions we were able to meet at times at the Multicultural Community Centre of South Australia in Gilbert Street, Adelaide, and at other times via Zoom. As a Branch we are members of MCCSA enabling us to use their premises for a modest annual fee. Despite the lack of face-to-face encounters, it is pleasing to note that our membership in this state and territory has remained robust and we welcome all newcomers to AUSIT.</p>		

## **Professional Development and Social Activities**

- At our last AGM on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we had the presence of the **Patricia Avila** from Queensland who presented a workshop titled "*Ethics with a Difference for Interpreters and Translators*". It was very well received.
- In October and November, we organised three face-to-face workshops on behalf of NAATI run by Magdalena Rowan which were well attended by around 20 people at a time. It was mainly aimed at Provisional Interpreters wishing to progress to Certified Interpreters. The topics included Simultaneous Interpreting, Note-taking and Memory Retention.
- We eventually braved a face-to-face networking meeting in December at the MCCSA premises and it was well attended by about 15 people. Discussions at these events are always lively and informative, mostly around the challenges interpreters face daily. We invited a PA representative to talk about what actions PA were taking elsewhere and what could happen here in SA to advance working conditions.
- In June over successive weeks, we organised a national webinar run by representatives of the Disability Rights Advocacy Service on the ins and outs for interpreters and translators of the NDIS. The registration numbers for both sessions amounted to something like 280 although each seminar was attended by around 180 people, still an impressive number. That is certainly the largest audience this Branch has ever had for a PD event. The webinars were well received although some interpreters wanted specific terms in their own language, which you will appreciate is just not possible to deliver in this webinar format. Since the presenters were funded by the National Ethnic Disability Alliance and did not wish payment, we decided to offer these events for free.
- In June we also ran another face-to-face networking meeting at MCCSA and while 18 members registered, 11 attended for an informative discussion.
- This month, some two weeks ago in fact, we ran a face-to-face PD session on *Dentistry* at the city TAFE for interpreters and translators. It was a very informative session attended by some 35 people, mostly members.
- So considering the restrictions that COVID still presents, we have managed to have quite a reasonable professional development program for this last 12 months. And I would like to thank Deborah Kalei and Marina Morgan for taking responsibility for assisting in the organisation of these events.

## **Membership report**

- Firstly, thanks again to Alicia Rex, our membership representative. Although National Council has now taken over registrations of membership, Alicia does send out letters of welcome to all new members to encourage their participation in AUSIT affairs.
- Our membership in the last 12 months has been steady. At the end of June 2021, we had 133 members while at the end of June 2022 we had 128, a difference of five. With the new membership year 2022 starting in July, we have now 118 at the end of August and this number usually increases during the year.
- In the Northern Territory, we have 8 members, one less than last year at this time. While we speak of the NT being a sub-branch, you will appreciate that given the size of the territory, and the fact that AUSIT members are scattered from Darwin to Alice Springs, to have a cohesive sub-branch is a huge challenge.
- Given the COVID situation and our robust financial position, AUSIT has chosen to keep fees relatively low at \$110 per annum.

## **Report from Northern Territory David Moore, N.T. sub-branch**

Speaking of the Northern Territory, I will now present a report sent in by David Moore, our representative there. He says: "As the Covid threat recedes we are now resuming normal life in the Northern Territory. The Covid crisis created the need for effective interpreting and translating in the languages of the Northern Territory as the N.T. government tried to get its messages out. Many translated scripts were distributed. Vaccination rates increased markedly throughout the Territory.

The Inquest into the Walker (Yuendumu) allegation of police misconduct has highlighted the problems caused by miscommunication. I have recently been talking with the two interpreters who are involved in the three-month inquest. One of the key Warlpiri interpreters is Theresa Napurrula Ross. At age seven in the 1970s she studied in one of the first Bilingual programs in the Northern Territory. Now she is a multiskilled translator, interpreter and language teacher, whose skills are highly in demand across many agencies. Her career highlights the importance of strong education and training in the language professions and the need for interpreters to be able to read, write and to understand the principles of translation.

The Central Land Council have translated their Native Title script into twelve languages of Central Australia with the involvement of a large number of interpreters and translators who have been recording the script.

At the Alice Springs Language Centre, we continue to develop the Cert II in Applied Language and SACE Stage 2 courses for Aboriginal languages. Senior Arrernte teacher Jannette McCormack has been teaching these classes. We encourage our students to take up careers in the language industry: interpreting and translating, language teaching, language documentation and working as liaison officers and cultural advisers. This year there are ten students in Cert II and ten students studying SACE Australian languages. There are many bilingual, trilingual and multi-lingual students in primary and Central Australian Middle School who we are hoping to encourage them to continue to learn to read and write in their languages and to pursue careers in language."

### **Branch Delegate's Report**

- I attended the online National Conference in November last year, as some of you did, I am sure, and one of our Branch Committee members travelled to Perth where it was held. It was a successful event offering many interesting professional insights and advice.
- National President Erika Gonzales, has, with the assistance of others, successfully implemented a program with FECCA, the Federal Ethnic Communities Council of Australia to train translators of new and emerging languages through the establishment of Community Review Panels, in particular in the context of the poor translations the government has produced to explain the Covid-19 and vaccination materials to all diverse communities. One of the main challenges is to work from documents that are in plain English, or to work out what Plain English means, and to communicate to people who may not be particularly literate. The consequence of this involvement is certainly a higher profile and respect of AUSIT as a professional association and a greater willingness by government to listen to our concerns about standards.
- You will no doubt have read in the AUSIT Newsletter that AUSIT has made progress through **The Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity** in launching a second edition of the *Recommended National Standards for Working with Interpreters in Courts and Tribunals*. Anecdotally, there are more in the judiciary who are taking note and improving conditions for interpreters. Nevertheless, across the states and territories, there is the constant lament from the professionals in the industry about the far from satisfactory working conditions for interpreters in particular. The health sector is still the remaining challenge because of the contract entered into by government and a certain language

service provider has meant that remuneration is unsatisfactory, well below the worth of the individuals they engage, and the benchmark set in Victoria Government negotiations some time ago.

- There is a proposal before the National Council to invite LSP to become affiliates of AUSIT as a gesture of inclusiveness and a sense of shared responsibility to raise standards in the profession. This will become a reality in the next 12 months.
- You may have caught up with the news that AUSIT's *IN TOUCH* magazine was voted the best publication for translators and interpreters by the FIT, the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs, which speaks volumes for those AUSIT members involved in its publication and the professional standards set by AUSIT on an international level.
- The National Council's Communications Committee, Education Committee and Ethics Committee are gaining momentum and starting to have positive effects for the organisation as a whole as witnessed by the improved AUSIT Newsletter of late, for example. From our Branch, Jan Ng, our secretary, is a member of the Communications Committee and Marina Morgan is a member of the Education Committee.

### **AUSIT Award**

- On behalf of AUSIT, congratulations to all those who have won awards as mentioned earlier in this session. In August, the following TAFE students were given an AUSIT Award: Shaheen Shamsabadi, Rezvaneh Niazi, Cindy Nguyen, Zijun Feng. We wish all graduate students well and in particular those recipients who obviously did very well. Their teachers too are to be congratulated for guiding them through the demands of the respective courses.

### **Conclusion**

- In conclusion, a sincere thank you to each and every committee member for their time and effort and making all our events possible this past twelve months. A thank you again to Sam Bern for providing our PD. Sam is a very busy lady and has somehow found herself being part of the organising committee for the National Conference in Brisbane in November. We are always hopeful of seeing new faces on our Branch Committee. Here is an opportunity to contribute to the profession. Just get in contact with us during the year should you wish to contribute. Thank you.

Joe van Dalen

Chairperson

21 September, 2022

### **5. The outgoing committee for 2021-2022**

Chair:	Joe van Dalen
Treasurer:	Shahin Entesari-Tatafi (appointed by committee after AGM)
Secretary:	Yee Jan Ng
Branch Delegate:	Joe van Dalen (appointed by committee after AGM)
NT sub-branch representative:	David Moore (co-opted by the Branch)

PD coordinator:	Marina Morgan (appointed by committee after AGM) who handed over the mantle to Deborah Kalei in November.
Membership officer:	Alicia Rex
Committee Members:	Tets Kimura; Haleh Khazrai; Deborah Kalei; Zsuzsanna Jover

#### **6. Dissolution of old committee and re-election of new committee**

- Chairperson Joe van Dalen, nominated by Ludmila Berkis and seconded by Alicia Rex
- Membership Liaison Officer Alicia Rex, nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Marina Morgan
- Secretary Yee Jan Ng, nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Marina Morgan
- Committee member Ludmila Berkis nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Alicia Rex
- Committee member Haleh Khazrai nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Shahin Entesari
- Committee member Marina Morgan nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Tets Kimura
- Committee member Shahin Entesari nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Haleh Khazrai
- Committee member Tets Kimura nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Marina Morgan
- Committee member Susan Zsuzsa Jover nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Yee Jan Ng

There being no other nominations for the above positions, they were all declared elected.

Positions not filled will be determined at the next meeting of the committee.

The Chairperson extended welcome to anyone who is interested to join the committee.

#### **7. Other Business**

- Ludmila expressed that being on the committee she has learnt so much and met a lot of people, thus it is worth the time spent on volunteering. You get the chance to contribute and have some input in the direction of your profession. This was seconded by Marina.
- Thanks extended to Joe, our Chairperson, for all his efforts and dedication to the branch.

#### **8. Closing**

Joe van Dalen thanked everyone for their attendance. Meeting closed around 8:15pm.

