

VicTESOL AGM 2024 Monday 1 December 2025

President's Report - Angela Di Sciascio

It is my pleasure to present the President's report for 2025. This year has been both a challenging and rewarding year for VicTESOL. The staff and Committee have worked very hard to ensure that VicTESOL offers a broad range of professional learning opportunities and resources for our members, meets its grant obligations, and advocates on behalf of the TESOL profession and EAL learners in Victoria.

VicTESOL currently has 326 members of which 313 are financial, including 21 institutional members. Our members are very important to us, and we aim to provide high quality benefits to members including providing a broad range of professional learning opportunities, reduced costs for events and access to exclusive member-only resources.

VicTESOL is a unique professional teaching organisation in that it caters for EAL teachers from Early Childhood Education and Care, Primary, Secondary, the adult sector and academia. Our 2025 PL program has had both the breadth and depth to cater for these diverse needs. This year VicTESOL has offered 14 professional learning events with over 640 registrations. Registrations came from across all sectors of EAL, both government and non-government institutions, and from regional and metropolitan centres. In fact, we had over 100 registrations from regional Victoria. The diversity of our PL program has also extended to VicTESOL's podcast series – we currently have eight podcasts available with over 90 followers. I especially thank Katrina Tour and Melissa Barnes for all their efforts in developing and building the podcast series.

Our website continues to grow as an important resource base for EAL teachers and is an essential asset for VicTESOL. The website had more than 16,000 visitors this year. In 2025 we have published nearly a dozen new resources. In addition, this year we launched the EAL Toolbox which has proven to be popular with more than 200 views per month, a close second to the Teaching and Learning Cycle page which continues to be our most popular resource.

We have noticed in recent years a change in the way that teachers prefer to access PL and this has led to a decrease in demand for short in-person events and synchronous webinars, along with an increasing demand for accessing resources on-demand through our website. This has led to increased pressure on our website and caused some issues with our website's effectiveness and functionality this year. Because of the importance of the website to VicTESOL's ability to serve its members and community, the Committee has decided to invest in the development of a new website that will be more fit for

purpose and able to grow with VicTESOL into the future. The VicTESOL website development project has begun and will be a major priority as we move into 2026.

A major achievement for 2025 was the extremely successful VicTESOL International Conference held on 15 August at the Pullman on the Park. This event had 314 registrations with attendees choosing between 29 different sessions covering a range of topics and delivered by over 50 presenters. There was a magnificent energy on the day and feedback was very positive, including from our international speakers and sponsors. This conference was a great achievement for VicTESOL, was several years in the planning and involved *lots* of hard work and dedication from staff and volunteers. Thank you especially to Helen Mayer-Tinning, Clare Blackman, Molly Flowers, the conference working group and the Committee for all your efforts.

VicTESOL is fortunate to have two grants that support us to provide the best service we can to our members and the broader community of Victorian teachers of EAL learners. We thank the Dept of Education EAL Unit for their continuing support through our Common Funding Agreement, and also the Dept of Ed Strategic Partnerships Program. I am pleased to announce that VicTESOL has been successful in securing another round of SPP funding for 2026 and 2027. Thank you to Clare and the executive for putting together a successful grant application. These grants are vital to our association's work and we are very grateful to have them as they ensure we can continue to offer a breadth of support to teachers.

This year saw the release of the Victorian EAL Curriculum F-10 2.0 and I want to thank our committee members who have worked closely with the Curriculum Area Reference Panel through the development process, in particular Mollie Daphne. I would also like to thank April Edwards who has represented VicTESOL on the EAL Curriculum and Assessment Reference Group.

Advocacy efforts for 2025 focussed on the adult sector with communications with Gayle Tierney, the Minister for Skills and TAFE. VicTESOL is also represented on the Victorian EAL Framework Adult Sector Advisory Group which met four times this year. VicTESOL is also a member of and supported the work of the Council of Professional Teaching Associations Victoria in their advocacy for clarity in how VCE assessors engage with Professional Teaching Associations.

The backbone of VicTESOL is its staff, Clare Blackman our Association Officer and Molly Flowers our PL Coordinator. Thank you for your competence and hard work. Molly has recently resigned and will finish up in Term 1 2026. We are sad to see her go but wish her well as she moves forward with her career. Recruitment for her replacement will commence shortly.

The generous and dedicated work of VicTESOL's volunteer Committee was a vital aspect of VicTESOL's success in 2025. I want to specially thank the 2025 Executive – Adam Quayle, Bek Piper Jones, Mollie Daphne and Marg Corrigan for their dedication to VicTESOL and support of me. We are in regular communication and meet monthly to oversee the work of VicTESOL. The exec team ensure that all the I's are dotted and Ts are

crossed from a governance and oversight perspective. I would like to pay special thanks to Marg Corrigan who has acted as Immediate Past President in the Executive team this year. Your guidance and mentorship have been invaluable.

VicTESOL also relies on many hours of volunteering from a highly competent committee consisting of Manjiit Bhamral, Jo Goodman, Carly Russo, Katrina Tour, April Edwards, Dannie Wang, and Simone Cassidy. The Committee met once a term with Exec and staff. In addition, three working groups met regularly. The communications WG managed all social media posts and eBulletins. Our eBulletin has over 2300 subscribers and is an important part of our service to the sector so this year another working group worked on designing a new eBulletin template, so watch out for its launch in the new year. This group has also begun work on the new website. In addition, we had a special membership project this year which made recommendations regarding membership fees and benefits that have been accepted by the committee executive, will be actioned in 2026, and will be incorporated into our new website design. Any membership fee changes will be brought to the next AGM. The work of the committee also included hosting events, representing VicTESOL externally, as well as managing the VicTESOL Research Grant application process. Thank you to the committee for another successful year, your work is invaluable. I would like to thank in particular April Edwards, Carly Russo and Jo Goodman who after many years of service to VicTESOL, are hanging up their boots and getting their evenings back.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, thank you to all our members for your continued support and for engaging with VicTESOL events and resources this year. We look forward to serving you in 2026.

Presented by,
Angela Di Sciascio
President 2025