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WEA wins National tender to deliver training across Australia

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Delivering 60 workshops across all capital cities and major regional areas is the challenge WEA Illawarra has taken on after winning a significant new national tender – the Australian Core Skills Framework professional development program.

A registered training organisation and Community College, the WEA has been offering adult education services in the Illawarra for over 96 years however this is the first time training will be delivered by WEA to a national audience.

According to Gareth McKeen; CEO for the WEA, *"This is a major strategic step forward and is a really exciting opportunity for WEA to develop a national footprint". "Not only is it a national tender, it also includes an online development component which will move us further into this flourishing area of training."*

The tender is to deliver professional development training in the Australian Core Skills Framework and the Employability Skills and Attributes Framework. These frameworks describe and measure English language, literacy and numeracy skills, specifically performance in five core skills of learning, reading, writing, oral communication and numeracy. The Australian government is committed to building foundation skills of adult Australians in order to enable effective educational, labour market and social participation and these series of professional development workshops were announced as part of the last Federal budget.

According to the Federal government, approximately 40% of employed and 60% of unemployed Australians have poor literacy and numeracy skills. These workshops will provide English trainers with the skills to incorporate into their teaching, curricula mapping, assessment and training package development.

"We're looking forward to working with educators to help them unpack the mystery of the ACSF and to make it easier for them to use for their needs" said Lesley Mortimer (WEA Equity Education Manager) who will manage the program.

A team of four trainers have been employed to develop and run the workshops which will commence in November and run through to June 2013. The online training will be developed in conjunction with an e-learning expert and will be available in early 2012.

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