

Project ID No.	CP 178 / 2 / 1 / 07
GOAL	4 SUB-PROGRAM

## Effective Networking Communities of Practice

Action plans must be submitted online to [www.reframingthefuture.net](http://www.reframingthefuture.net) by COB Tuesday 5 June 2007.

Please select "Submit a Form" on the Home Page Menu and follow the prompts.

All sections must be completed.

Please note: sections 1 – 9 of this document will be uploaded onto the Reframing the Future website. Details of participants in item 11 will be only be used in accordance with our privacy policy and will not be published on the website.

### Name of organisation funded by Reframing the Future

The Deaf Society of New South Wales
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### 1. Convenor's details

Name: Susannah Macready		
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### 2. Facilitators' details

Name: As above		
Address:		
City/Suburb:	Postcode:	
Ph:	Fax:	Mobile:
Email:		

### 3. Project overview (100 words maximum)

The project will establish a community of practice involving providers of Deaf Adult Basic Education throughout Australia. Although providers exist in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Canberra, there is no formal network for sharing ideas. This community of practice will allow providers to discuss the particular needs of the client group and strategies for course delivery, classroom activities, curriculum implementation and assessment tools. It will also allow further collaboration on innovative projects using shared resources to meet the needs of clients.

### 4. Domain of knowledge

What aspects of the national training system will be addressed by your project?

Assessment Validation: The community of practice will give providers of Deaf Literacy training opportunities to compare assessment tools and methods across Deaf Literacy providers.

Reasonable Adjustment: AQTF compliance requires reasonable adjustment of assessment and a community of practice would promote discussion of this in relation to the specific needs of Deaf learners.

The new CGEA: The new Certificates in General Education for Adults have been recently released and those providers using this curriculum need opportunities to discuss and evaluate implementation strategies in relation to the needs of their client groups.

Workplace Literacy: Meeting the needs of Deaf workers who benefit from in-house tutoring and investigating the best ways to provide this support (web tutorials, face-to-face)

**5. Facilitating your community of practice**

The idea of a Deaf Literacy Community of Practice is very new, and there are only a few existing contacts between members. It is anticipated that the community will be able to progress to the second stage of coalescing in the time available. This will be achieved through:

- An EDNA Online group for members to share resources, discuss topics of mutual interest, etc.
- Emails to group members from the convenor/facilitator, introducing each person as they join the network.
- A national meeting which will bring together a representative from each state. Given that Auslan is the first or preferred language of a number of potential participants, the importance of a face-to-face meeting has become more apparent since the funding application was submitted.
- Moderation/validation activities undertaken by the group via video remote technology if this is likely to benefit group members.

**6. Structuring your community**

Please describe how you propose to support the development of the three components of your community: its domain of knowledge, community and practice (see *Effectively Structuring Communities of Practice in VET*):

**Domain of Knowledge**

The online forum (EDNA Online Group) will provide a place for the sharing of documents and knowledge about the area of Deaf adult literacy. Email will also be used for the distribution of information and the possibility of web-based video conferences between deaf practitioners or between deaf and hearing practitioners will be explored.

**Community**

The community will be developed by open discussions through the online forum and especially by the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting. For most of the participants, this will be the first event of its kind in Australia.

**Practice**

The forum will allow participants to discuss their practice, to compare the problems they face and the successes they have achieved in the delivery of deaf adult literacy. Tools such as assessments and processes such as validation will be shared by the group. The facilitator will be expected to lead the way in openness about practice and resource sharing, and to encourage “ownership” of the group so that participants are comfortable sharing their experiences.

**7. Anticipated outcomes** (see Chapters 6-7 of *The Potential*)

Please describe the outcomes anticipated as a result of your project:

for participating individuals	Access to a wider range of tools for assessment Information about the usefulness of a variety of teaching resources Professional development relevant to the needs of Deaf adult learners A sense of shared experience with other practitioners Improved skills and greater job satisfaction
for participating organisations	Improved quality of literacy programs Better AQF compliance More standardised assessment Opportunities for collaborative projects and collaborative research

**8. Promotion**

Please outline how your project's processes and products will be promoted:

within your organisation(s)	It will be promoted within our small team through personal contact with interested people
to industry and other relevant organisations	Through phone and email contact with known practitioners and advertising to TAFEs and private RTOs.
to the broader VET sector	Through EDNA Online and other VET networks

**9. Evaluation**

Applying the principles of RTF "Evaluating Projects" information, the facilitator will:

- Document the project objectives
- Clearly state project objectives in initial consultations with members
- Keep accurate records of activities in the community of practice
- Regularly ask members for feedback and facilitate discussion of needs that are or are not being met
- Review the project goals every 2 months to evaluate whether the objectives are appropriate and whether other objectives should be added.
- Communicate conclusions of evaluation to members after each review

**10. Project timeframe**

Please list project milestones and key dates

(Please add rows as required)

Milestone	Key date
Known potential participants contacted and COP advertised	June 30
Members introduced and joined EDNA Online group including email of introduction from facilitator for each member	July 31
Mid-term report due	August 28
Deaf Literacy Community National Forum	August 31 (TBC)
Minutes of forum meeting/s circulated	September 14
Actions and suggestions regarding potential collaborative projects begun	Oct 30
Final evaluation report due	November 27