







took place. We both feel that it was a very rich experience, although at times exhausting, as we undertook the project while continuing with our regular teaching roles. Participation in such a project demonstrates how the skills and expertise of adult literacy teachers can be utilised for greater benefit in the community.

At a local level, Melton City Libraries and Djerriwarrh have not partnered before in relation to adult literacy so this is an innovative program for the library service. The program brought together adult education experts, library staff and other community organisations to develop a resource that meets the learning needs of the community. Whilst the library service currently provides some English conversation classes, the offering in the adult literacy space was limited until now. With a focus on adults, this program addresses a gap in the library's approach to literacy, where much of the focus has been on early years.

The library is one service in the community that has recognised the need to provide access to those who have low levels of literacy. There are many more services in the community that can benefit from working with literacy experts to ensure that their information is accessible for those with lower reading proficiency. Those with low levels of literacy often miss out on information and activities because information by service providers is written for those with high reading proficiencies.

Adult literacy teachers have a lot to offer outside of the classroom. They have the skills to modify and structure text and incorporate support such as visuals to assist those with low literacy to access information. The lessons learnt in the

library project are only the beginning of an idea that can be developed and expanded into other areas.

To access the resource go to: <http://www.melton.vic.gov.au/alr>

## Reference

State Library Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria Network. (2016). *Reading and literacy for all: adult literacy – Victorian public libraries in action*. Retrieved from <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Reading-and-literacy-for-all-adult-literacy-libraries.pdf>

**Marcella O'Connor is an Educational Consultant. She has a Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Graduate Certificate in TESL, CELTA, MA, Certificate IV Training and Assessment and MEd (TESOL). Marcella has over thirty years of experience working as an EAL teacher in Australia, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates. Marcella can be contacted at [marcellao@djerriwarrh.org](mailto:marcellao@djerriwarrh.org)**

**Natalie Nawrocki has been teaching adults in literacy and EAL for the past twenty-two years. She is currently employed at Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services as a trainer and assessor in the Skills for Education and Employment program. Before working in adult education she worked as a community worker for ten years. Natalie has a Graduate Diploma (PrimaTeaching), a Postgraduate Diploma in TESOL and Literacy, a Graduate Diploma (Secondary Teaching) a Bachelor in Social Work and a Bachelor in Australian Cultural Studies. In 2015 she wrote a reader funded by the Cancer Council titled *Kim Loves Life*. Natalie can be contacted at [natalien@DEES.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:natalien@DEES.onmicrosoft.com)**