The Queensland Council for Adult Literacy is hosting the 37th Annual conference of the Australian Council for Adult Literacy “Literacy: a learning spiral for life” on 2-4 October 2014.

We invite you to come and join us on the beautiful Gold Coast as we focus on the literacy or numeracy learner and discuss:

- How do literacy and numeracy theories and research outcomes inform our practice?
- How do national or state policies affect the individual learner?
- How can we ensure that teachers and trainers have the knowledge and skills to meet individual needs?

Our international keynote speakers are:

**Professor Stephen Reder**

Professor Stephen Reder, Professor of Applied Linguistics at Portland State University

Stephen Reder has been involved throughout his career in teaching, research and service activities in education, workplace and community settings. Dr. Reder’s research focuses on adults’ lifelong and life-wide literacy, digital literacy and second language development processes.

He has been the Principal Investigator of several recently completed research projects: the National Labsite for Adult ESOL, the Longitudinal Study of Adult Learning (LSAL), and Tutor-Facilitated Digital Literacy Acquisition in Vulnerable Adult Populations.

He is currently conducting research and preparing a publication series on the long-term impacts of adult education programs on economic, educational and lifelong learning outcomes.

Professor Reder is the author of numerous publications about adult literacy and second language research and its implications for education and training programs. He recently edited a volume with John Bynner, *Tracking Adult Literacy and Numeracy: Longitudinal Studies in Adult Education*, published by Routledge. He has published widely on his research in a variety of international journals and frequently presents at national and international conferences. Dr. Reder has served on the advisory boards of numerous organizations and journals devoted to adult education and literacy and actively works with networks of adult education researchers, practitioners and policymakers at the local, state, national and international levels.
Professor Diana Coben, PhD, is an adult educator who is Director of the National Centre of Literacy and Numeracy for Adults at the University of Waikato, New Zealand and Emeritus Professor of Adult Numeracy at King’s College London, UK.

She was also a founder-member of the National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy (NRDC) in England and was Founding Chair of the international research forum: Adults Learning Mathematics (ALM) www.alm-online.net.

Diana researches and undertakes consultancy, teaches and publishes internationally, specialising in adult numeracy education, policy and politics of adult education from an international comparative perspective and the professional development of adult educators.

She is especially interested in numeracy in safety-critical work contexts and a strong advocate of use-inspired interdisciplinary research, exemplified in her work on numeracy for nursing, e.g., www.nursingnumeracy.info/.

We invite you to participate in the conference by giving a presentation, a workshop or a colloquium, or by joining in the discussion and networking.

A pre-conference forum ‘Frameworks: do they inhibit or enhance the literacy spiral?’ will be held on 2nd October. The forum will focus on frameworks such as: Foundation Skills, the Australian Core Skills Framework, Core Skills for Work, Core Skills for Employment & Training, Skill Sets and the VET Practitioner Capability Framework, what they are, how they fit together, and how they relate to literacy & numeracy programs and individual learners.

We look forward to seeing you on the Gold Coast in October 2014.

Jean Searle

Convenor, 2014 ACAL Conference

Vice-President, Queensland Council for Adult Literacy

www.qcal.org.au

More information and the ‘Call for Presentations’ can be found at: http://www.acal.edu.au/14conf/index.htm.