

Dear member,

Last month's AUSIT National Council meeting took place on 29 November. The following were among the matters discussed:

- The National President is currently finalising the AUSIT Strategic Plan 2020-2023.
- The National Council has agreed that AUSIT's Constitution should be changed so that National Council office-bearers can only sit for up to six years before taking a break of at least one year. These changes make it even more important for branches to actively mentor and encourage keen members to join Branch Committees and eventually National Council, as well as to encourage members to volunteer for national committees and for conferences and other events.
- The National Council has decided to change AUSIT's association managers from TAS to Office Logistics. The National Secretary has started liaising with Office Logistics to effect the changeover by early 2020.
- The WA Branch has started to form an Organising Committee and make preliminary arrangements for the AUSIT National Conference in Perth in November 2020. The National Council agreed that it is necessary to engage a commercial conference organiser for the event.
- The National Council decided that, since International Translation Day events organised by AUSIT branches will be free of charge, any expenses incurred fall under the National Council's budget.
- As part of the NAATI development grant for training interpreters in new and emerging languages in QLD, the scholarship selection panel has selected 15 members for the TAFE SA course scholarship. Six out of those fifteen members have already applied and been accepted into the program.
- The National Council allocated a representative for each of the national committees, being:
  - Rocco Loiacono, Immediate Past President, for the Education Committee (replacing Sandra Hale)
  - Susan Jover, Vice-President for Communications & PR, for the Awards Committee (replacing Amy Wang)
  - Despina Amanatidou, Vice-President for PD & Events, for the PD Committee (replacing Erika Gonzalez)

Please note that the National Council will next be meeting in February 2020.

Yours sincerely,

AUSIT National Council

Dear member,

This month's AUSIT National Council meeting took place on 19 October, in conjunction with the AUSIT National Conference and National AGM in Hobart. In addition to the election of National Council members at the AGM, the following were among the matters discussed:

- The National Membership Officer presented her annual report to National Council. She reported that the membership process has improved significantly, and it is now easier and faster for new members to join. With forms for various changes of category now accessible through the Members page of the website, this aspect is now also easier and faster.
- The National Council Administration Assistant also reported on the completion of tasks in her job description, as well as new tasks that have commenced since the start of her role. She will redraft her job description to reflect the new tasks her role entails.
- The National President will finalise the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 in line with feedback from National Council.
- National Council decided that AUSIT will be co-sponsors with NAATI for a project to support Queensland interpreters with scholarships in 2020.
- National Council has approved guidance for branch committees on the two main roles of Membership Liaison Officers: to welcome new members, and to be a first point of contact for members with queries.
- The National Secretary will continue drafting Special Resolutions to make the Constitution a more workable document in what is now a much larger and more complex association than when the Constitution was first drafted.

Yours sincerely,

AUSIT National Council

Dear member,

This month's AUSIT National Council meeting took place on 20 September and the following matters were discussed:

- The Communications Officer presented a report on her activities from January to October 2019. Her main activities have been:
  - increasing AUSIT's social media presence,
  - assisting with revamping the AUSIT website,
  - updating the promotional flyer to attract new members,
  - producing a variety of eFlashes,
  - proof-reading documents, and
  - assisting with coordinating awareness-raising campaigns and events.
- The Vice-President (Events & PD) reported there have been 123 registrations so far for this year's National Conference, and that good sponsorship support has been received. The Organising Committee is in the process of allocating moderators for all presentations.
- The National Secretary has drafted a revised version of the Constitution that includes changes to parts of the Constitution that no longer reflect the current AUSIT structure and internal management. National Council will review the proposed changes before presenting a series of Special Resolutions to AUSIT members.
- The National Secretary has also drafted a position description for the new Membership Liaison Officer role in branch committees. National Council will review the draft before publishing.

Yours sincerely,

AUSIT National Council

Dear member,

This month's AUSIT National Council meeting took place on 16 August and the following matters were discussed:

- NC discussed the idea of offering members an early-bird discount (for renewing by 30 June), and agreed on the current standard membership price of \$201 for ordinary members, with a discounted price of \$181 (10%) for early-bird renewals (and similar 10% discounts for other membership categories). NC also agreed to keep the one-month period of grace for renewals.
- NC has tested and approved the new platform to improve readability of *InTouch* magazine and plans to adopt it as the main platform for the next *InTouch* edition. The editorial team will trial it on some selected articles and also republish some selected old articles.
- Scholarships to assist members to attend the National Conference will be organised. Tasmanian MP Elise Archer will be invited to open the Conference. A panel on Interpreting in Health Settings (the new national Competency Standards for Clinicians) will take place in the afternoon.
- Work is under way on constructing the new web site. The working group will be provided with a shell to be populated.
- NC agreed to subscribe to a combined package of webinars, including some conducted remotely and others in the Redback studio. Redback has agreed to give AUSIT a 15% discount.
- The National President will circulate a Strategic Plan 2020–2023 before the next meeting for NC consideration, and which is expected to be finally approved at the post-NAGM meeting.
- NC agreed that events should be organised each year, starting from 2020, to celebrate International Translation Day (30 September).
- NC agreed it is necessary to increase PD events for translators – including webinars on transcreation, localisation, and videogame translation – as there are currently more PD opportunities for interpreters.
- Discourse will be moderated to ensure that contributions are constructive, and NC will consider TAS's proposal for such moderation. NC will also work on a proposal that new members/practitioners with questions or in need of mentoring can be referred to a panel of more experienced practitioners.
- NC is reviewing and commenting on the draft social media policy.
- Vice-president (Events & PD) noted that there are occasions when other PD providers, such as universities, schedule T&I PD events that accidentally clash with AUSIT's own PD events, resulting in fewer practitioners being able to attend each event. NC agreed it is important that AUSIT liaises with other PD providers to prevent this situation.

Yours sincerely,

AUSIT National Council

Dear member,

This month's AUSIT National Council meeting took place on 19 July and the following matters were discussed:

- The current eBulletin will be replaced by the Discourse platform by the end of the year. As with the eBulletin, posts on the new platform will be subject to some rules regarding courtesy towards other members and any criticism being constructive.
- Another package of 10 webinars will be purchased from Redback for 2019–20.
- Once the 'grace period' for membership renewals expires on 31 July 2019, the National Secretary will upload onto the AUSIT web site an application form for lapsed members wishing to reapply for membership.
- The National Council's submission to the TRAC (Technical Reference Advisory Committee) on the establishment of a Professional Conduct Committee will be formally considered by the NAATI Board on 30 August 2019, with the final approval expected to take place in October after feedback from the Board.
- The National Council and *InTouch* editorial team will first do an initial trial of the new platform to improve readability of the magazine on tablets and smartphones. The trial will start with selected articles only; a move to having the entire magazine on this platform will occur at a later stage.
- The National Treasurer will produce a quarterly financial report, a summary of which will be distributed by email to AUSIT members.

Yours sincerely,  
AUSIT National Council

AUSIT's National Council (NC) meets once a month to make decisions about the running of the association, as well as its strategic direction and policies. The NC recently decided to make summaries of these meetings available to members, and therefore presents to you the matters discussed at our recent meeting of 21 June 2019:

- As at 18 June, AUSIT had 1,228 members, made up of 34 Senior Practitioners, 995 Ordinary Members, 11 Retired Members, 143 Student Members, and 45 Associate Members.
- Student members are being asked whether they have completed their studies, in which case they will be invited to renew their membership as ordinary members; in future this will become standard procedure each June.
- An application form for lapsed members wishing to reactivate their membership will be made available on the AUSIT web site in future.
- Registrations for the 2019 National Conference (in Hobart on 18–19 October) are now open. The Tasmanian Premier has been invited to deliver the Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture (response pending) and Dr Marc Orlando has accepted the invitation to deliver the keynote speech.
- The schedule for National Conference venues through to 2027 will shortly be published on the AUSIT web site.
- The NC will test a new platform to improve the readability of *In Touch* magazine on tablets and smartphones.
- AUSIT will make a one-third contribution of \$15,000 to support the training and NAATI testing of interpreters for WA. AUSIT's National Treasurer will represent AUSIT on the fund. In order for candidates to access this fund, they must be AUSIT members.
- Following a review of AUSIT's Social Media presence, all obsolete accounts have been deactivated, and LinkedIn has been contacted to have the unofficial, automatically generated profile for AUSIT deactivated.
- The Guidelines for AUSIT Representatives on External Committees or Groups has now been finalised.
- With the creation of a National Membership Officer position earlier this year, branches no longer need to have a Membership Officer to process applications to join. Instead, there will be a Membership Liaison Officer position in each branch to welcome new members and be the first point of contact for member queries.

Yours sincerely,

AUSIT National Council