

2009-2012 ALTA Business Plan: Mission Statement, Objectives & Strategies

On the 2nd July 2006, at the ALTA Executive Planning Meeting, Victoria University, Melbourne, the ALTA Executive drafted a three year Business Plan. This included creating a Mission Statement and Objectives, and of course, what good are objectives without Strategies, so strategies were developed to achieve these objectives, in accordance with the ALTA mission. In July 2009, the ALTA Executive held a Strategic Planning meeting in order to revise the 2006 business plan, including the previous Mission Statement and Objectives. This business plan is a revised version of the 2006 plan, and is outlined below.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Australasian Law Teachers Association (ALTA) is a professional body which represents and promotes the interests of law academics in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific.

Its overall focus is to promote excellence in the areas of:

- (a) research and scholarship;
- (b) teaching and learning;
- (c) professional development and networking;
- (d) engagement with professional stakeholders and the community;
- (e) representation on developments in government policy and law reform

OBJECTIVES:

ALTA has as its objectives:

1. To develop closer collaboration between the ALTA Executive Committees in Australia & New Zealand

Strategies:

- (a) Organise and support joint committee meetings;
- (b) Enable closer collaboration using email and other technologies.

2. To build professional development and networking opportunities for members

Strategies:

- (a) Appoint representatives within each School;
- (b) Develop a welcome pack for new members for distribution by School Representatives;
- (c) Publish biannual newsletter each semester;
- (d) Review and improve ALTA Website

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3. To support and promote legal research and scholarship.

Strategies:

- (a) Research and promulgate information on government initiatives such as the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) in New Zealand;
- (b) Explore how we can support legal academics in using such schemes effectively;
- (c) Increase the academic rigour of research papers delivered at the annual conference;
- (d) Publish a refereed journal, the *Journal of the Australasian Law Teachers Association (JALTA)*, based on papers delivered at the annual conference;
- (f) In conjunction with CCH, award the CCH-ALTA Best Conference Paper Awards;
- (f) Inform the government and pertinent public agencies as to the nature and discipline specific aspects of legal research;
- (g) Where appropriate provide representative advocacy to encourage better linkages between the publishers requirements and government and university driven academic research imperatives such as peer review of research.

4. To support and promote legal education and the scholarship of higher education in law.

Strategies:

- (a) Research and promulgate information on government initiatives such as the Australian Learning and Teaching Council;
- (b) Publish a refereed journal, the *Legal Education Review (LER)*, on the scholarship of legal education;
- (c) Supply the *Legal Education Digest (LED)* to members;
- (d) In conjunction with LexisNexis, award the LexisNexis-ALTA Awards for Excellence and Innovation in the Teaching of Law
- (e) Inform the government and pertinent public agencies as to the nature and discipline specific aspects of legal education;
- (f) Where appropriate provide representative advocacy to encourage better linkages between the profession, academics and other stakeholders in legal education;
- (g) Investigate the degree of interest in organising specialist law teaching forums or workshops.

5. To liaise with key Australasian academic, government and professional organisations by publicising pertinent information to ALTA members for example through the ALTA Newsletter, while also providing written information about ALTA to these organisations for dissemination to their members.

Strategies:

Compile strategic information on ALTA and its work and communicate this to key agencies, for example:

- (a) Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII)
- (b) Australasian Professional Legal Education Council
- (c) Australia and New Zealand Education Law Association
- (d) Australian Academy of Law;
- (e) Australian Bar Association;
- (f) Australian Law Students Association;
- (g) Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC)
- (h) Continuing Legal Education Association of Australasia;
- (i) Corporate Lawyers Association of New Zealand;
- (j) Council of Australian Law Deans;
- (k) Institute of Professional Legal Studies;
- (l) International Legal Services Advisory Council;
- (m) Law Council of Australia;
- (n) New Zealand Bar Association;
- (o) NZ Society for Legal and Social Philosophy.

6. *To liaise with key international stakeholders by publicising pertinent information about their functions to ALTA members for example through the ALTA Newsletter, while also providing written information about ALTA to these organisations for dissemination to their members.*

Strategies:

Compile strategic information on ALTA and its work and communicate this to key agencies, for example:

- (a) Association of American Law Schools;
- (b) Association of Law Teachers;
- (c) Canadian Association of Law Teachers;
- (d) Commonwealth Lawyers Association;
- (e) Commonwealth Legal Education Association;
- (f) European Law Faculties Association;
- (g) International Association of Law Schools;
- (h) International Bar Association;
- (i) Irish Association of Law Teachers;
- (j) Lawasia;
- (k) Society of American Law Teachers.

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7. *To actively engage in the planning and organisation of the annual ALTA Conference, so as to maximise the promotion of the ALTA mission and objectives.*

Strategies:

- (a) Meet with the Conference Committee at least once prior to the annual Conference;
- (b) Ensure that key sessions promoting ALTA's role are included in the conference program;
- (c) Organise a convener and School representative social event at the annual conference.

8. *To expand our membership and representation to all Law Schools and Business Law Schools across Australasia and increase institutional support for membership in Australasia.*

Strategies:

- (a) Co-opt ALTA members from each law school and business law school in Australia and New Zealand to act as ALTA liaison persons within the schools;
- (b) Provide the liaison members with timely information so that they are able to effectively brief and advise the respective law schools management and staff of ALTA's activities and therefore encourage institutional support for membership.



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