



## ALTA Business Plan: Mission Statement, Objectives & Strategies

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

The Executive posted the new Mission Statement, Objectives & Strategies on the ALTA website in late July 2006 and asked members for feedback. This commenced a process of consultation for five months. In addition, a joint meeting of the Council of Australian Law Deans and the ALTA Executive, was held in July where Executive members were seeking feedback from Australian Law Deans. The Australian and New Zealand Executive members of ALTA are committed to pursuing the objectives through the strategies and the mission statement is now the ratified statement for the Association.

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Australasian Law Teachers Association (ALTA) is a professional body which represents the interests of law teachers in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.

Its overall focus is to promote excellence in legal academic teaching and research with particular emphasis on supporting early career academics, throughout Australasia, in the areas of:

- (a) Legal research and scholarship;
- (b) Curriculum refinements and pedagogical improvements in view of national and international developments, including law reform;
- (c) Government policies and practices that relate to legal education and research;
- (d) Professional development opportunities for legal academics;

- (e) Professional legal education and practices programs.

**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 support and promote legal research and scholarship.*

Strategies:

- (a) Research and promulgate information on government initiatives such as the Research Quality Framework (RQF) in Australia, the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) in New Zealand and the Carrick Institute;
- (b) Determine 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) Inform the government and pertinent public agencies as to the nature and discipline specific aspects of legal research;
- (e) 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.

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

*4. 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.

**5. 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 the convener social event at the annual conference.

**6. To expand our membership and representation to all Law Schools across Australasia and increase Institutional membership in Australasia.**

Strategies:

- (a) Co-opt at least two ALTA members from each 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 membership.

**7. To investigate the viability of specialist legal education workshops.**

Strategies:

- (a) Investigate the degree of interest in organising specialist law teaching workshops and legal research supervision workshops;
- (b) Instigate a report including the history of previous ALTA workshops, other avenues for similar training in the current higher education context, availability of presenters, and likely costs of the programs, so that this issue can be fully considered by the Executive.