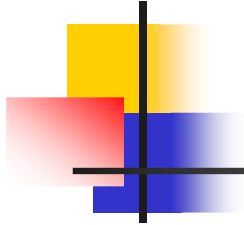




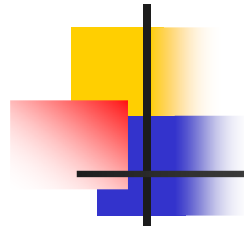
**Waterford Institute of
Technology**

**Literacy Development Centre
WIT/NALA Accreditation
Project**

TRAIN Project
December 7, 8, 2006
Helen Murphy
Project Manager



- **Introduction**
- **Overview**
- **Rationale for the programmes**
- **Structure of Programmes**
- **Innovations**
- **Progression routes**
- **Expectations for the TRAIN project**



WIT School of Education

- WIT is a third level institution with over 10,000 students based in the south east of Ireland
- The Institute has six Schools representing different disciplines
- The School of Education is one of six schools within WIT
- The School provides a suite of programmes designed for those working within the education sector
- The Literacy Development Centre is based in the School of Education and manages the WIT/NALA Accreditation project which provides third level qualifications for those working within the Adult Literacy sector in Ireland



Background to WIT/NALA Project

- Literacy Services with varied levels of provision
- No structures in place for personnel working in the sector
- No defined qualifications or career paths
- No permanent positions within the services
- Issues relating to the quality of literacy provision and training provided to both volunteers and paid staff
- Question of changing what was a volunteer based movement into a more structured service that was based in the formal education system in Ireland
- The issue of adult literacy had largely been ignored by mainstream politicians and educationalists

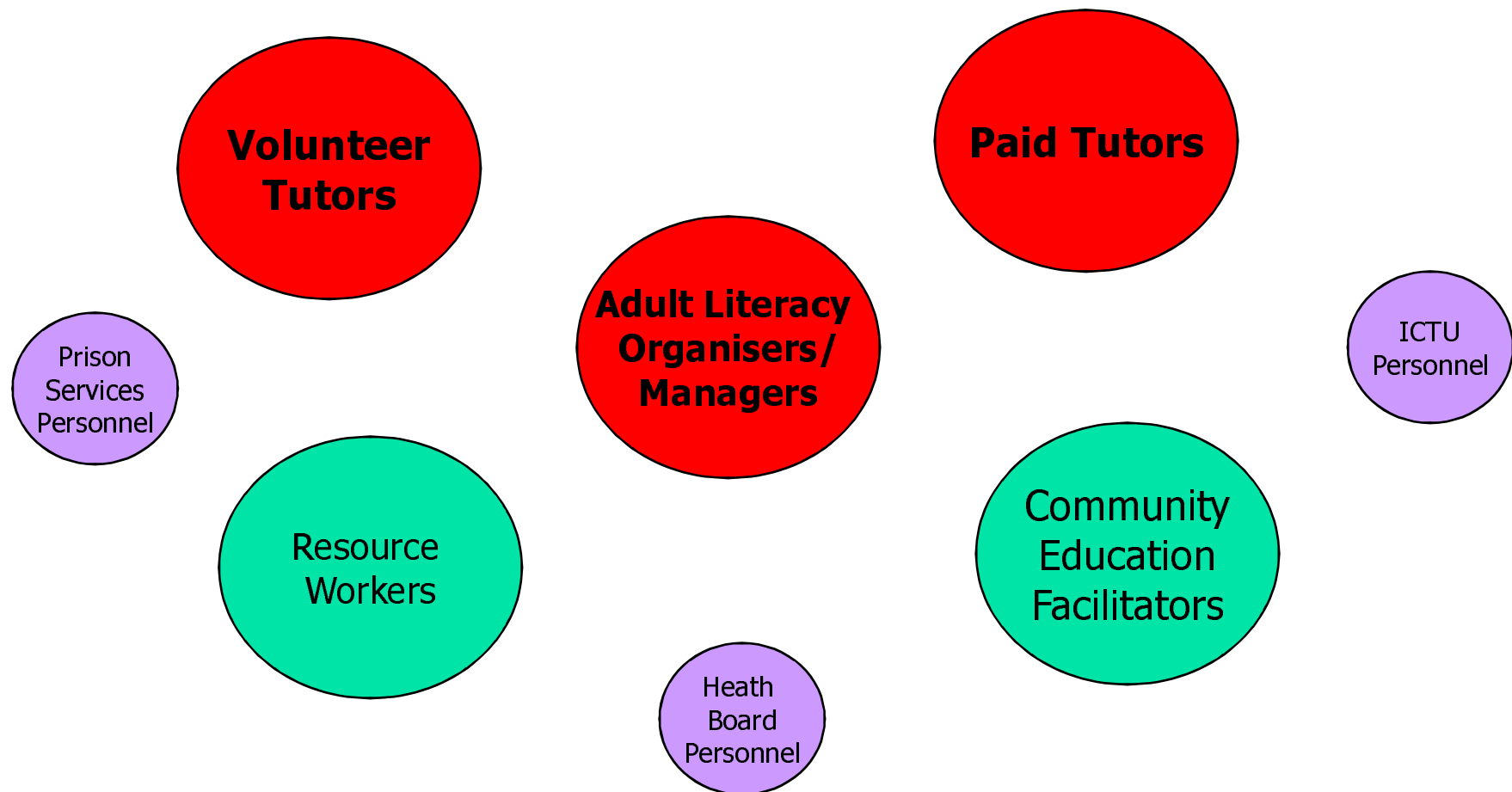


Background to WIT/NALA Project

- During the 1990's much lobbying was done by the NALA to highlight the issues relating to adult literacy
- The government department (Department of Education & Science) agreed to fund the development of a third level qualification for adult literacy organisers
- WIT was chosen as the third level institute that NALA would work with to develop this initial programme
- This has been a unique partnership between a third level institute and a national state agency



Personnel working within the Literacy Sector in Ireland





Providers of Adult Literacy Services in Ireland

VEC Sector – 90% of all adult literacy
Services provided by VEC literacy schemes

Youthreach – early school leavers

Senior Travellers Training Centres

Health Boards

ICTU, FAS, Community Programmes
Prison Services,



WIT/NALA Accreditation Project

- **Overview**
- **Qualifications designed for those working in the Literacy Sector**
- 1995 WIT and the Irish National Adult Literacy Agency collaborated to offer the first third level qualification for Literacy Organisers working in the adult literacy sector
- In 1998 the need for an equivalent qualification for Literacy tutors was recognised and a Certificate level course was subsequently validated by the NCEA
- Programmes have undergone a number of changes as a result of consultation with key stakeholders over the past 8 years
- Stakeholder input into the evolution of all programmes offered by the Literacy Development Centre at WIT has been central to their development



WIT/NALA Accreditation Project

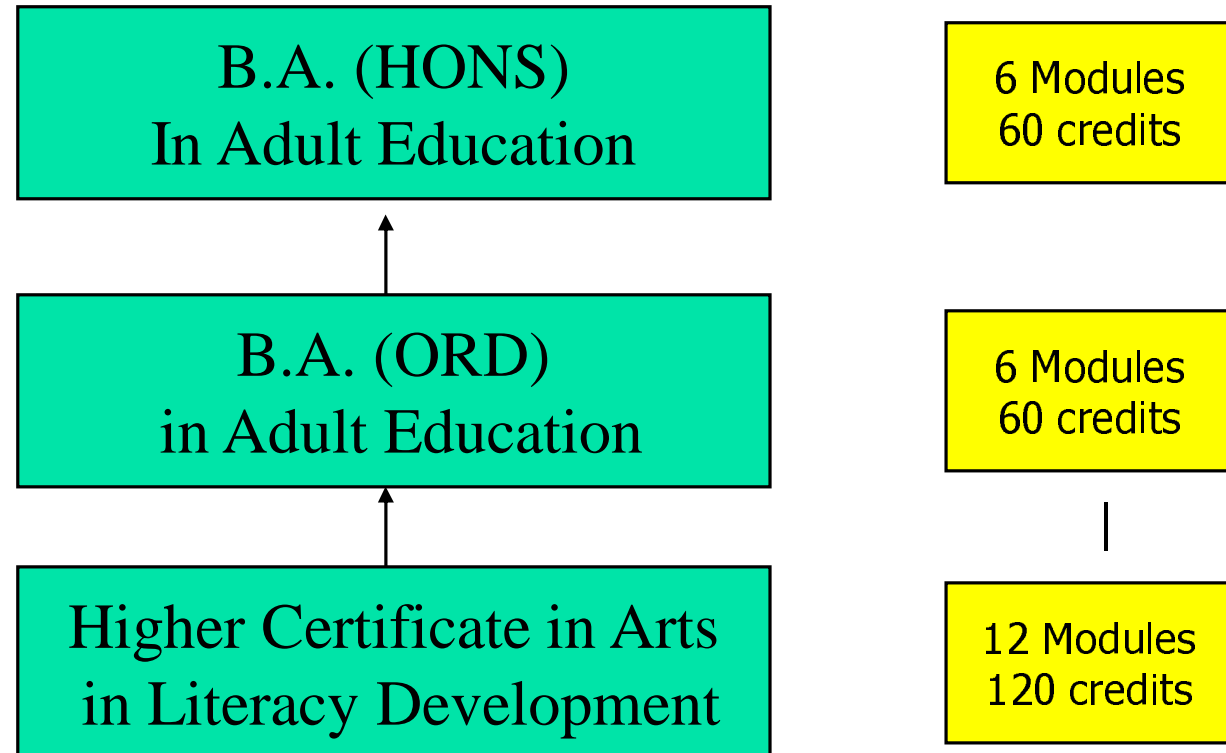
Today the project is based in WIT and a dedicated project team manage the development and delivery of programmes

- **The project is fully funded by the Department of Education & Science**
- **The qualifications are recognised by the DES as the appropriate qualifications for those working within the adult literacy services in Ireland**



WIT/NALA Accreditation Project

- The WIT/NALA Accreditation project offers:





WIT/NALA Accreditation Project

■ **Rationale**

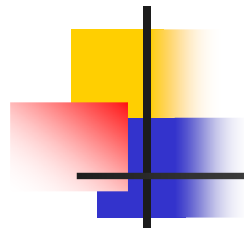
- The objective of the programmes is to ensure that those working in the sector are equipped with the requisite teaching and organisational skills required to address the adult literacy issue in Ireland – IALS and OECD (1997) reports indicated 25% of Irish adults were at literacy level 1 and a further 23% at literacy level 2
- The programme design is based on adult learning principles
- The programme is designed to provide a 3rd level teaching qualification to practitioners working in the literacy field
- Programmes have drawn from national and international best practice in literacy learning and tuition and adult basic education



Higher Certificate in Arts in Literacy Development

■ **Programme Structure**

- NQAI Level 6 qualification
- 12 modules to be completed – mix of mandatory and elective modules
- Duration – approximately 26 months
- Each module is supported by 35 teaching hours delivered in blocs of 3 days (6 days in total per module) with approximately 75 hours self directed study per module
- Assessment is varied and comprises project work, presentation, peer review, essay work, reflective learning journals and practical work related exercises
- Participants may opt to take a small number of modules per year and build up credits over time



Higher Certificate in Arts in Literacy Development

Stage 1 Core Modules

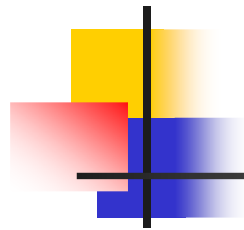
Thinking & Learning Skills

Adult Literacy Methodologies 1

Group Dynamics

Psychology of Adult Learning

Professional Practice



Higher Certificate in Arts in Literacy Development

■ Stage 1: Electives

Steam 1 Management	Stream 2 Literacy Tuition
	Adult Numeracy
	TESOL 1
Management	Extending Literacy
Social Marketing Communications	ICT in Literacy
	Literacy & Specific Learning Difficulties



Higher Certificate in Arts in Literacy Development

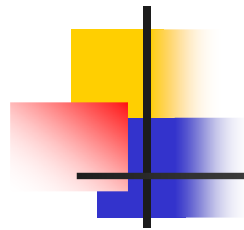
- Stage 2: Core modules

Philosophy of Adult Education

Curriculum Development

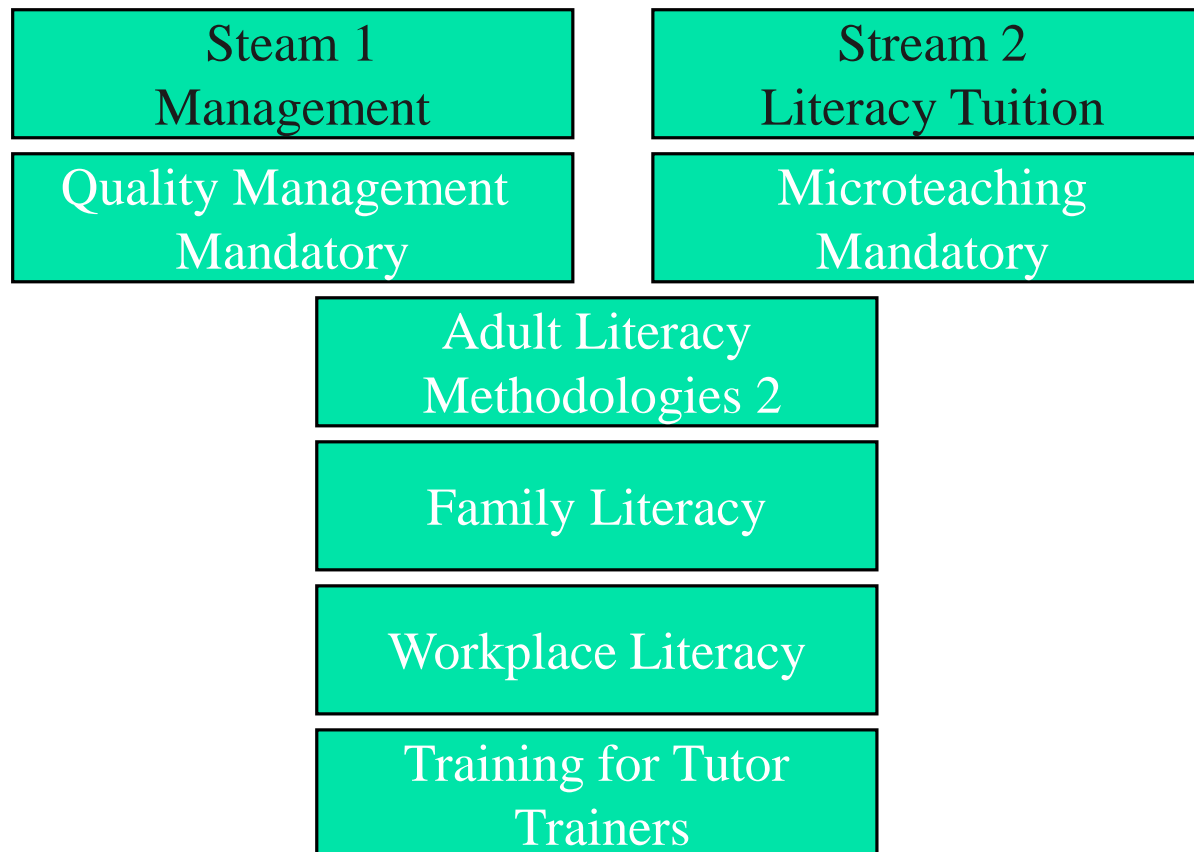
Counselling Issues in Adult Education

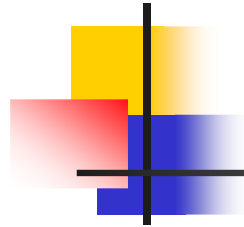
Equality & Diversity in Education



Higher Certificate in Arts in Literacy Development

- Stage 2: Core and elective modules





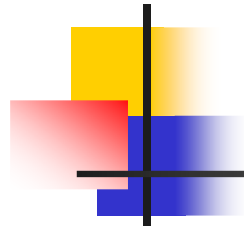
B.A. (Ord) in Adult Education

Core Modules

Nature of Enquiry in Adult Education
Psychology of Adult Learning
Education Policy
Curriculum Planning and QA

Electives

Management of Adult Education, Adult Numeracy
Family Literacy, Literacies in Context
TESOL 3



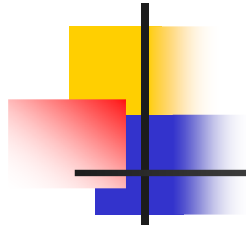
B.A. (Hons) in Adult Education

Core Modules

Intercultural Education
Equality & Social Analysis
Research Methodologies
Research Project

Electives

Strategic Management
Advanced Literacy Methodologies
Critical Education Theory



Innovations

APEL

Blended Learning

Peer Observation
& Review

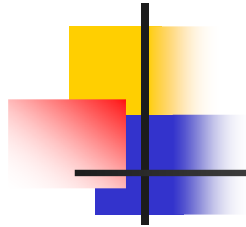
**Student Support
By Web CT**

Supervised Teaching
Practice



Progression Routes

- H.C. in Arts (Literacy Development)
↓
- B.A. (Ordinary) Adult Education
↓
- B.A. (Hons) Adult Education
↓
- PG Diploma/Masters in Teaching & Learning in
Further & Higher Education
↓
- MA Management in Education



Expectations For The TRAIN Project

- To share experiences and insight into the education provided to adult literacy tutors by all partners
- To gain insight into content, curriculum, approaches to programme development used by all partners and experts consulted
- To develop material that can be used as part of our programmes
- That all materials developed would be of a high quality and beneficial to learners reflecting best practice