

Access and Equity Statement

One of the principles of the NSW Government Policy on Adult Education is that,

‘All adults, regardless of their backgrounds and circumstances, have a right to access a diversity of affordable, quality learning opportunities’.

(Lifelong Learning for All, 1996)

WEA Sydney’s own Mission Statement supports this principle by emphasising the Association’s commitment to:

‘Facilitating access for all who seek to take part in our activities’.

On a practical level, this means that WEA Sydney courses are open to all, irrespective of gender, nationality, disability, socio-economic background or religious affiliation. Anyone over the age of 18 may enrol in any course. No qualifications or special knowledge of the subject is required unless specified in the course pre-requisites. WEA Sydney has no party-political or sectarian ties and welcomes all those who wish to participate as students or join as new members.

WEA Sydney’s principles in this area are also guided by its Code of Practice and its Workplace Discrimination and Harassment Policy.

WEA Sydney’s educational program is designed to be as flexible as possible with classes being offered in a variety of formats at different times of the day, evenings and weekends. Regular staff training sessions are held to enable staff to assist and advise all prospective students and enquiries, and to liaise with tutors on any problems encountered by students.

In support of its commitment to ‘facilitating access’, WEA Sydney staff and tutors remain committed in their efforts to assist disabled students. The WEA Course Guide carries a notice each term that disabled students will be assisted on arrival and departure, and full details of WEA House’s services for disabled students are prominently listed in the brochure and on the WEA Sydney website. WEA Sydney also follows a dedicated and regularly updated Disability Action Plan. At a more fundamental level, WEA Sydney supports Access and Equity initiatives by maintaining a concessionary fee policy of 10% for pensioners, senior card holders, unemployed, veterans, full-time students and other benefit recipients. Cases of financial hardship, which may prohibit enrolment even under concession rates, can be directed to WEA Sydney’s senior management.