

Introduction

WEA Sydney has perhaps the proudest record of all of Australia's Adult & Community Education organisations. Founded in 1913, it has provided education for hundreds of thousands of adults in a great variety of subjects. It is one of the largest non-government organisations of its kind in Sydney, offering on average over 1,250 short courses each year, taken up by some 15,000 students. Such figures speak for themselves - new students with their lives enriched, and students who return time and again to enjoy the special style of WEA adult education.

Historical Snapshot

Since its formation, WEA Sydney has grown considerably. Initially working in partnership with the University of Sydney's Department of Tutorial Studies, since 1983 WEA Sydney has blossomed with a wider range of courses, presented by the most fully qualified and experienced tutors available. The association's remarkable success in providing quick and affordable computer skills training in the late 1980s and early 1990s saw considerable enrolment growth, a pattern that has necessarily slowed in recent years as full computer literacy has spread throughout Sydney's population.

Year	Classes	Enrolments
1964	159	5,729
1974	306	9,894
1985	472	12,023
1995	1,187	16,666
2005	1,391	18,483
2009	1,336	16,020
2011	1,253	14,353
2014	1,312	15,418
2016	1,295	14,462
2019	1,179	14,549

Courses on Offer

As a student, the world is your oyster at WEA Sydney. Whether you wish to gain a formal qualification for workplace skills, or just want to enjoy extending your knowledge of your favourite subject, WEA will have a

course that is suitable for your needs. Each term we offer courses in:

- History & Literature
- Philosophy & Psychology
- Culture & Society
- Politics and Social Sciences
- Visual Arts & Music
- Writing Skills
- Digital Skills
- Accredited Training
- Corporate Business Courses
- Languages
- Hobbies & Lifestyle
- Art, Craft & Photography

Note that many of these courses feature discounts for seniors, students, and holders of government concession cards. Discounts are also available to participating unions (e.g. NSW Teachers Federation, among others).



WEA Sydney – A Registered Training Organisation (RTO)

WEA Sydney is a Registered Training Organisation, registered in accordance with the Australian Quality Framework (AQF) by the Australian Skills Quality Authority to deliver a range of qualifications within its defined 'scope of registration'. Nationally Recognised and Accredited courses are identified in the WEA brochure by the Nationally Recognised Training (NRT) logo. Being nationally



recognised ensures a high quality of course delivery along with portability of qualifications that are recognised by employers and Registered Training Organisations throughout Australia.

Discussion Group Program – home study for groups

The WEA Discussion Group Program is based on the formation of small, friendly home-based groups – minimum 6 people, maximum 15 – wishing to meet regularly to discuss and learn, and enjoy the active exchange of ideas. Over 100 courses are available, from history, fine arts, philosophy, religion, literature, poetry, travel and drama. Groups are spread over metropolitan Sydney, and widely into country areas of NSW.

The WEA Year

Computer courses are available throughout the year during the week and on weekends. The general program is offered in 4 terms of approximately 9 weeks each, with the Summer term starting in late January, and the fourth term, Spring, starting in October. There are breaks between terms, usually featuring short holiday courses. Each term is promoted with a colourful course guide. Anyone over the age of 16 can enrol. There are no exams. No qualifications or special knowledge of a subject is required, unless specified in individual course descriptions. All classes are held at WEA's specially designed building, **WEA House, 72 Bathurst St, Sydney 2000.**

WEA Sydney's Facilities

Classrooms: The majority of courses are held at WEA House, in the heart of Sydney. Eleven classrooms exist over four floors, with rooms in sizes catering to small groups up to audiences of 40. WEA Sydney has a state-of-the-art computer training facility, featuring the latest software programs and specialised training equipment. There are nine workstations in the lab and all students have exclusive use of a PC. All other rooms have the use of modern presentation technology including laptops, data projectors, DVDs, CDs, and other audio-visual equipment. Two rooms also feature special learning-loops for the hearing disadvantaged.

Services for Special Needs Students

- Access to the mobility disadvantaged lift via the wheelchair ramp at the front door, street level entry from Bathurst St.
- Carpark spot – Basement level 1 (entry via Bathurst St, please contact WEA Reception to organise entry)
- Toilet for disabled students – Ground Floor
- Wheelchair availability – please contact WEA Reception if required.

Library

WEA Sydney provides a **lending library** with a holding of over 13,000 volumes catering for the needs of students. Foreign language CDs are available for short-term loan, as are a range of relevant journals and periodicals. Membership is free to students and there are photocopy facilities, and internet access available too! **The Library is open from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday (note that the Library is closed on weekends).**

The full library catalogue can be viewed on WEA Sydney's website (www.weasydney.com.au). WEA library members can also borrow FREE from the Library of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts.

WEA Ramblers

The WEA Ramblers are an independent club, affiliated with WEA. For just a small annual fee, members can enrich their lives through regular walks, and meetings. Club contact details are available in WEA course catalogues and on our website.

Education in Action: Become a volunteer

WEA Sydney has always been active in educational matters and has prepared numerous submissions to government bodies regarding the role and function of adult education. A vigorous voluntary governance structure is active in deciding matters of policy and finance. Monthly Council meetings provide a forum for debating these issues. Students can also become members of WEA Sydney. Membership provides tangible support for the association and entitles you to stand as a Representative of Individual Members on the WEA Sydney Council.

A Quality Provider of Education for over 100 Years

With its combination of principles and activities, and its open-door policy, WEA Sydney has provided life-long learning to the people of Sydney for over 100 years. Its success is best summarised by the voice of one of its students:

"WEA is a goldmine. For the most affordable price I have first rate lectures on exactly what I'm interested in, in the most congenial company."

Jan Babington, Camperdown

WEA Membership

WEA Sydney has a growing membership of students and individuals just keen to support what WEA does – provide the best short courses in Sydney. Membership only costs \$20 a year, \$50 for 3 years, and comes with many benefits:

- Enrolment into two free members-only lectures, given by some of WEA's best tutors (refreshments included)
- Social events at WEA
- Members' draw for \$250 course voucher each term
- Priority mailing of course term catalogues.

You can help WEA Sydney with a Gift or Donation

WEA is able to accept gifts or donations from any of its students. WEA Sydney is registered as a **Deductible Gift Recipient** with the Australian Taxation Office, and this means that any gift or donation from **\$2 upwards** is classified as a tax deductible gift (you will receive a proper WEA receipt for such gifts). Equally, WEA Sydney is able to accept bequests from those who would like to support its work into the future – even small amounts can help to build a fund that will protect WEA's interests and ability to maintain its current program, unique among other colleges.

Workers' Educational Association Sydney
ABN 82 062 922 908
A Not-for-Profit Organisation Founded in 1913



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Excellence in Adult Education and Training

WEA Sydney's Mission Statement

WEA Sydney is a voluntary, independent, not-for-profit adult education organisation. Our mission is to provide adults with stimulating and varied educational activities which develop their knowledge, understanding and skills.

Within our program we place special emphasis on providing opportunities for the serious and objective study of the arts, humanities and sciences.

We are committed to:

- maintaining excellence in all aspects of our work
- encouraging students to participate in their own education and in WEA's democratic management structure
- facilitating access for all who seek to take part in our activities

We believe that WEA activities are of value to individuals both in their personal life and in their role as citizens in a democratic society.

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