

Library Services for Disabled People

On November 29 the Community Services Librarian of the State Library of NSW, Val Moon, took part in a seminar on Library Services to People with Disabilities, organised by the Riverina Community Library.

The seminar was based on the contents of the Staff Training Package on Library Services to People with Disabilities produced by the State Library of NSW in conjunction with members of the NSW Working Party on Library Services to People with Disabilities. The package has been developed to assist libraries (and other agencies) to plan and run seminars, workshops and staff awareness/training sessions in order to raise the level of awareness of staff regarding these specialised needs.

A copy of the Package has been made available to all NSW Public Libraries, and it is anticipated that the Community Services Librarian will assist in planning and running programmes based on the Staff Training Package in many regions of the state.

The seminar was attended by people from community groups, staff of the Riverina Murry Institute of Higher Education, as well as staff from the Wagga Wagga City Library and Eastern Riverina Community Library. Its success was influenced very much by the audience and their contributions. Several of the participants represented particular disability groups and their willingness to share their personal experiences of their disability was regarded as the most valuable aspect of the discussions.

A demonstration of the Community Information for the Disabled Service was much appreciated by the participants. The Community Information for the Disabled Service (CID) has been developed by a group of people including the Riverina Community Library Service. The computer and operator are presently used in the Tumut Neighbourhood Centre and information is generally available by telephone.

The seminar was judged to have been most successful. Staff of the libraries have requested further programmes to provide greater awareness of specific areas with implications for their library services. A series of shorter training/awareness sessions will start shortly.

The presentation of such seminars and training programmes is seen as valuable not only in developing and improving library ser-

vices to people with disabilities but as part of a continuing process of awareness raising. Librarians planning programmes are encouraged to include discussions relating to needs in such areas as access, education, employment, independence, and leisure and information.

Rosemary Moon

Community Services Librarian
State Library of NSW

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CORPORATE PLAN & REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

The LAA's Corporate Plan & Review Committee has now completed its report. A meeting of the General Council will be held on 15 February so that Councillors can be briefed by the Committee and will have an opportunity to discuss the report and its recommendations.

A summary of the report is to be published in *InCite* and the full report will be circulated to divisions and will be available on request. All members are invited to read the report and recommendations and to forward comments on this most important document.

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