

National Language Policy Report

As mentioned in the last issue of *InCite*, the LAA is extremely concerned at the delay which has occurred in preparing the Federal Government's response to the *Report on a National Language Policy*.

The Commonwealth Assistance to Public Libraries Committee has written to the Minister for Education, Senator Ryan, expressing its concern about the delay and to all other Federal Members of Parliament. A copy of the letter to Senator Ryan appears below.

April 29, 1986

Senator, The Honourable Susan Ryan,
Minister for Education,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Ryan,

A joint committee of the Library Association of Australia (LAA) and the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographic Services (AACOBS) has recently prepared a submission which establishes the need for Commonwealth Government funding of multicultural public library services. This submission has been presented to the Commonwealth Government Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services and I have attached a copy for your information as it reflects also on some of the recommendations of the *Report on a National Language Policy*.

The Committee is extremely concerned at the delay which has occurred in preparing a response to the *Report on a National Language Policy* and welcomes the recent appointment of Mr J. Lo Bianco as a special consultant to co-ordinate the development of a response.

The Committee is particularly anxious to see the establishment of a National Consultative Council on Language in Australia (recommendation 2) and the adoption of recommendations 107-111 which relate to libraries and the development of multicultural library services.

The Committee seeks your assurance that a response to the *Report on a National Language Policy* will be expedited and would appreciate it if you could indicate a date by which a response might be expected. Should you require further information about the committee's submission on multicultural public library services, I shall be happy to assist.

Louise Lansley
Secretary to Committee

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NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

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MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION

News from the National Conference

The programme for the Biennial Conference in Darwin will offer a number of items of interest to members of the Medical Libraries Section.

Two papers will be presented on medical areas. Annette Benson, Librarian at the Gosford Central Coast Area Hospital will be speaking on the ethical and legal responsibilities of the librarian in the provision of patient information. Jan Heath, National President and Health Sciences Librarian at the South Australian Institute of Technology will talk on alternative medicine information sources.

There will be a meeting of those interested in hospital library standards to discuss the issues and report on progress in their respective states.

The Annual General Meeting of the Section will include an item on the transfer of nursing education from hospitals to CAEs and the impact on libraries. This will give an opportunity for state groups to report progress and suggest recommendations for further action.

The social event, a joint Medical/Specials Dinner will be held at Fannie Bay Gaol on Monday, 30 June at 7.00pm.

Three members of the National Executive, Jan Heath, Elisabeth Gatehouse and Lindsay Harris will be attending the Conference and look forward to meeting with other medical librarians to discuss these and other issues.

SA BRANCH

The SA Branch has commenced a recruitment strategy which, says Branch President Alan Bundy, 'is showing some result already but is more a foundation for the years ahead!'

Initiatives this year include talks to librarianship students; an upgrading and proposed renaming of the Branch's newsletter; its free mailing for the first three issues for 1986 to librarianship graduates; a personalised letter and copy of the newsletter to all students; letters of congratulations from Branch Council to all Chief Librarians with membership application forms; extensive distribution of the LAA video; ensuring that a local contract is available to help resolve membership problems; a recruitment evening with meal provided for students graduating in 1986; the identification of non LAA members in the workforce to be targeted for recruitment with a special introduction package.

Alan says that the Branch is concentrating on producing a student awareness of the LAA because they are the future of the Association. We think it's the small things that determine membership, things as simple as being asked and having ready access to membership forms and nominators — the proposal in the Corporate Plan and Review to supply *InCite* in bulk to library schools is heartily endorsed by the SA Branch.

SCHOOLS SECTION (NSW)

School librarians in NSW have been exploring the implications of recent technological developments at three Schools Section events in the last few weeks.

On Saturday, 12 April, thirty-five country teacher-librarians attended an ASCIS seminar rerun at Forbes to look at the implications of this national cataloguing service for their

school libraries.

On the next day, a panel of four in Sydney were linked via a teleconference to 20 teacher-librarians at three centres across New South Wales (Albury, Taree and Broken Hill). The panel consisted of Colin Macdonald, Assistant Director of Services in the NSW Department of Education; Martha Heeren Senior Education Officer, Computer Education Unit and LAA General Councillor; Mary Jane Stannus, President Schools Section and Project Officer NSW Curriculum Information Network (NCIN); and Robyn Laverack, Senior Education Officer, Library Services in the NSW Department of Education. Topics discussed included ASCIS, NCIN, LAA and Department of Education policy statements vis-à-vis school libraries.

The Section hopes to make more use of the Telecom facility to bring services to country teacher-librarians.

Finally, on Saturday 19 April, 100 teacher librarians from across the state, assembled at Glebe High School for the School Section's 1986 ASCIS Seminar. Sessions presented ranged from ways of reconciling the new ASCIS Subject Heading to existing catalogues learning to access ASCIS online and preparing the way for possible future availability of ASCIS via Viatel and compact disk services.

As well as attending seminars, teacher librarians are keeping abreast through School Section publications — \$174 worth being sold at Forbes alone!

Christine Hingert.

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS NSW

On Wednesday 23 April, Committee member of the NSW Library Technicians Section Group visited Mt Druiett Technical College and met with 14 students of the Library Technicians Certificate Course. LAA literature was displayed and membership forms handed out. Biscuits, cheese, sausages, mineral water and wine were served. The Head of General Studies, Mr M. Buchanan and two of the teachers were present.

Hon. President Mrs Marlene Knowles made the opening remarks, explaining what the LAA is and does. She pointed out that the LAA is not a trade union but the watch-dog of the profession. Committee member Nina Gordon who works at Sutherland Shire Library talked about the variety of work there, and the positions she has held. Committee member Jackie Scherer who works in a Special (an accounting organisation) told of the multifarious tasks performed in such a place, and how useful it was to belong to the LAA because of the networking spin-off through meeting up with fellow technicians. Vice-President M. Lexie Zantiotis, who is a Senior Library Technician in the Cataloguing Department of the State Library of NSW, explained her line of work and her responsibilities. Hon. Editor of *Lib Tec* Anne Doherty who is a Senior Library Technician with TAFE gave a run-down of her working life commencing in Hornsby Shire Library thence to the course at Sydney Technical College, and working in various departments within the TAFE complex. Questions were answered, including one: 'I thought you had to finish the course before you could join the LAA'. As well as the speakers, support came from Committee member Nina Davis and Hon. Secretary Joan Walker, and much help from Mr B. Knowles.

The next visit to students will be to Sydney Technical College, and later (hopefully) to Wollongong.

J. Walker
Hon. Secretary