

Direct Line



Sue Kosse
Executive
Director

Wednesday, 12 June 1991 marks an historic point for the Association and a number of similarly interested Associations: the first combined meeting of the Executive Committees of ALIA, the Australian Society of Archivists, the Australian Council of Archives, the Australian Council of Library and Information Services, the Records Management Association of Australia and the Medical Records Association of Australia. The aim of the meeting is to identify issues of common interest and to consider a strategy for the future. It is expected that issues to be considered at the meeting will include preservation, national information policy, education

and training and local history collections. The outcome of the meeting will be reported in a future issue of *inCite*.

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General Council has decided to develop a response to the Report of the Working Party on Library Provision in Higher Education Institutions, although responses have not been sought by the federal government. However, the report's recommendations have implications for University Libraries, the National Library of Australia, ALIA, ACLIS and others. General Council believed that the strongest response to this report would come from a response which emphasised areas of mutual agreement and interest. Colin Steele in his capacity as the ACT General Councillor is drafting the Association's response.

The report from the Senate Standing

Committee on Long Term Strategies into Australia as an Information Society is now in draft form. It was discussed at a seminar of eight industry representatives chosen by the committee in Melbourne on 3 May 1991. This report is expected to be tabled in Parliament in the first week of June 1991.

In December 1990, the federal government released its Green Paper *The Language of Australia: Discussion Paper on an Australian Literacy and Language Policy for the 1990s*. This paper is a critical element in the development of a National Policy on Languages. Contrary to expectations, this new proposal did not provide for funding to libraries under the National Policy on Languages. Discussions through to December 1990 had indicated that some \$4 million would be available to libraries to provide resources to support this policy. Derek Whitehead drafted the Association's response to the Green Paper, which has subsequently been endorsed by General Council and by ACLIS. Substantial efforts will be required to alter the direction of this draft policy as regards libraries. An approach has been made to the State Libraries Council to enlist its support, and thereby also State government support, to promote funding for libraries within this policy. □



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— *Library Journal*, April 15, 1991

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