

# Direct Line



**Sue Kosse**  
ALIA Executive Director

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**D**URING THE past three years we have seen the federal government's education policy statements focus upon the development of the unified higher education system. 1992 will be the year of the TAFE, where already large sums of money are being invested.

Within the Department of Employment, Education and Training there is a growing acknowledgment that not only is a lack of a tertiary qualified workforce a drawback to an internationally productive and competitive Australia, but so is an illiterate and unskilled workforce.

Hence the shift in focus to vocational education and training for both school-leavers and those already in the workforce. In making this change, Minister Peter Baldwin has already given acknowledgment to the cross sectoral implications of this policy, especially as regards infrastructure, including libraries.

The Association recognised in 1991 that it needed to be prepared to take advantage of this opportunity to promote libraries. It therefore established two working parties: one to consider the TAFE changes and the Finn report, and one to consider the second part of the Jones Report on the role of public libraries, and at the same time it issued a discussion paper on the broad issues involved in the cross sectoral use of libraries.

The TAFE Working Party members (the President, Bev Kirby, Ms Anne Hazell, Chair of the Board of Education and the President of the TAFE Libraries Section, Ms Chris Harrison) will be recommending a strategy to the General Council in the near future.

The Jones Report (part 2), while

basically focusing upon public libraries, identified the need for a mechanism to enable better co-operation between the library sectors, and it made specific recommendations regarding funding for public libraries. The Committee only has the power to make recommendations to the House of Representatives Standing Committee for Long term Strategies. It has no delegations other than to report and recommend. This second part of the report has been referred to the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories (DASET) for consideration and response. As the National Library of Australia is part of DASET, it will be involved in the development of this response.

Jenny Cram, 1992 Vice-President, Jane King (Victorian General Councillor) and myself will be developing a discussion paper on the second part of this report for General Council's consideration in March 1992.

The Association's General Council considered a discussion paper on the cross sectoral use of libraries developed by the ACT General Councillor, Colin Steele, and the Victorian General Councillor, Jane King, at its November 1991 meeting. Due to the widespread interest in this issue, and the Council's desire to consult with ACLIS and CAUL on this issue, a decision on a strategy was delayed pending further consultation with both Divisions of the Association, and ACLIS and CAUL.

There is little doubt that major changes are in store for the TAFE sector, and this will have implications not only for TAFE libraries and courses, but also for other library sectors.

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### INDEXING COURSES

**Introduction to Book Indexing**

April 22 - May 27 6-9 pm

**Indexing Technical Material**

July 30 - Aug 27 6-9 pm

**Computer-aided Indexing**

June 10 - July 8 6-9 pm

Expressions of interest are sought for a 4 day indexing workshop which will cover both introductory book indexing and computer-aided indexing to be held in June, 1992.

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