

Direct Line



Sue Kosse
ALIA Executive Director

...the Association will be a critical industry element in the identification, revision and advice on competency standards, articulation and evaluation in the workforce...

1992 AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY WEEK

The dates for Australian Library Week in 1992 will be 2-9 October. Australian Library Week will follow a week of activity at the ALIA 1992 Conference to be held in Albury-Wodonga. Mark it in your diaries now! The theme has not yet been finalised so look for further information in the next issue of *mCite*.

TOWARDS the end of 1991 I reported on the changing place of the Association in regard to workforce competency standards for the library and information sector. There has been very considerable progress on this front since the agreement of the Association's General Council in November 1991 to work with Arts Training, Australia on an occupational skills analysis for the sector.

In early December 1991, a meeting was held between the Association, Arts Training, Australia and DEET to discuss the development of this project. The Association was represented by Bev Kirby, the Vice-President, Angela Bridgland, Convener, Training and Development Sub-Committee of the Board of Education, Susan Ainsworth, the Industrial Officer and myself.

At this meeting it was agreed that the Association should continue to take a strong lead in this project, and that it should work with Arts Training to establish a tripartite Steering Group to manage the project. The Steering Group will comprise a total of 10 representatives from the Association, employers, unions and DEET/Arts Training, Australia and the Local Government Industry Training Council.

Workforce competencies

The project will include the identification of workforce competencies in the library sector, training provision and gaps, evaluation and articulation, and of a mechanism for the future revision of competency standards, and consideration of the consultative processes required. The project will cost in the order of \$80 000-\$120 000, and this will be funded by DEET (50%) and the library sector (50%). It is expected that the total project will take approximately 2 years to complete, with the first part being completed by August 1992.

A draft project proposal is being developed by those who attended the initial meeting in December 1991.

Within the first quarter of 1992, an industry meeting of employers and unions and DEET, will be called by the Association to establish the Steering Group and to consider the draft proposal. This meeting will also help to identify the work which has already been done in this area for the library sector, and to consider the consultative mechanism required for the project.

This project will have considerable implications for the Association, and the work in which it has been historically engaged through its Work Level Guidelines and course recognition procedures. In future the Association will be a critical industry element in the identification, revision and advice on competency standards, articulation and

evaluation in the workforce and education for the library sector. The Association is actively seeking Federal Government endorsement of this position.

This project represents the Association's second step in this direction: the first being the obtaining of Registration as an Industry Training Agent for the library and information sector.

If you would like more information on this project please contact either myself or the Industrial officer, Susan Ainsworth, at the Association's National Office.

ALIA becomes a RITA

The Association has historically played an important role in the maintenance of standards of initial formal training for library technicians and librarians. It will now extend this role to cover the training of personnel in the library and information workplace, through its Registration as an Industry Training Agent (RITA) with the National Training Board.

Advice on and the certification of workplace training and related expenditure is now offered as a new service to libraries as employers by the Association's National Office.

As a RITA the Association can fulfil the statutory function of assessment of eligible training programs and or eligible training expenditure and issue appropriate certificates to meet the requirements of the Training Guarantee Scheme. The Association can also provide advice on training programs, and general information on the requirements of the Scheme.

Advice to employees

RITAs are a mechanism established under the Training Guarantee Scheme to provide advice to employers on training for their employees, and to certify training programs and expenditures as prescribed under the Training Guarantee Act 1990 and the Training Guarantee (Administration) Act 1990, and their subsequent amendments. The Act is administered by the Australian Taxation Office.

Through this registration the Association is continuing its long-standing tradition of promoting training and development in the library and information sector to increase and improve the quality of the skills of the workforce for this sector.

If you would like more information on this service, please contact either Sue Kosse, the Executive Director, or Carol Kenchington, the Training and Development Officer.

An information booklet has been developed to support this new service for the Association's institutional members. If you would like a copy of the booklet, it is available from the National Office for \$10.00 [members] and \$15.00 [non-members].