

ALIA Board of Education

Kay Poustie, the Board's Chair, reports on its strategic focus for 1994

The Board of Education met in October with a very full agenda. One of the priorities of the meeting was to develop a strategic focus for 1994, particular-



ly needed because of developments related to the National Training Reform Agenda.

The work of the Board is becoming more closely involved with issues arising from the National Training Reform Agenda which means that much of the work of the Board is directly related to members in their workplace.

With this in mind, the Board drafted the following Mission Statement:

'To empower members of the Association to attain excellence in their professional practice through the provision of education and training policies, standards and activities. The Board will do this through a National Plan for Professional Development for implementation of the National Training Reform Agenda for the library and information industry, encompassing: Competency Standards and Assessment, Workplace Reform, Career Planning, and Recognition of Best Practice.'

For those of us in the workplace, it means that the Board will identify training and professional

development initiatives to assist members in developing their own career paths and developing new skills that will be relevant to them when they approach performance appraisal and enterprise bargaining with employers.

Whilst the Board has always focused on the standards pertaining to entry to the profession, the change in government policies has required a shift in focus to the needs of those in the workplace and their ongoing professional development and training requirements. We will also be continuing work on making training and development available to isolated members.

The development of competency standards for the library and information sector will bring new challenges to the workplace. The Board will continue to work on informing and educating members on the competency movement. Successful workshops have already been given by Board members in some States.

Elections for Board members will be under way when this is published. It is with regret that the Board farewells Anne Hazell and Dr Christine Henderson, both of whom have served on the Board for six years, and Michael Middleton, who has served a three-year period. Their work has been outstanding, particularly when it is remembered that it is in a voluntary capacity. Anne will continue to represent the Association on the National Arts Training Australia task force, which is developing competencies for our industry.

Board members will continue to be available to speak to members about the work of the Board. I was delighted to meet members in Cairns, Townsville, Launceston and Hobart recently—it certainly assisted me in understanding some of the concerns of those who are distant from our capital cities. ■

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