

The tender trap

Christine Mackenzie

The Public Libraries Section (Victorian group) and the Office of Library Services jointly sponsored a seminar dealing with compulsory competitive tendering and libraries in Melbourne at the end of May. The seminar attracted eighty delegates, including library managers, local government officers, commissioners and chief executive officers of library services.

The day was officially opened by the Hon Robert Maclellan, Minister for Planning and Local Government, and the Minister responsible for public libraries in Victoria. He reiterated the Victorian Government's strong support for public libraries and for the public library network that has ensured Victoria's leading role in the provision of library services.

The seminar featured Sue Williams, manager of benchmarking at the City of Monash, who explained some of the processes Monash have been through, and recommended that libraries consider benchmarking against other industries, rather than just other libraries. Ross Gibbs, director of the Office of Li-



Robert Maclellan, Minister for Planning and Local Government at the seminar with Christine Mackenzie, president, Public Libraries Section (Victoria)

brary Services, provided a summary of what is happening nationally in regard to standards, especially in the context of the Council of Australian State Libraries' work in this area. David Eedle, Manager of the Bendigo Performing Arts Centre, gave an entertaining and interesting perspective from an allied industry.

The afternoon featured a panel discussion chaired by Graham Dudley, Office of Library Services. Pat Salau (Swan Hill), Cathy Hunt (Port Phillip),

Elisabeth Jackson (Hume Moonee Valley) and Jane King (formerly Yarra) gave survival tips and encouragement to libraries faced with the prospect of tendering.

One of the major concerns that the Public Libraries Section in Victoria has with compulsory competitive tendering is the threat to co-operation that the competitive environment poses. Seminars such as this keep communications open and continue to promote and support a strong network. ■



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Call for nominations of 3 members

Nominations are called for 3 positions. Nominees must be financial members of the Association at the time of nomination, however they need not be professional members.

There are ten members of the Board of Education, seven elected by members of the Association and three by General Council. At least seven members of the Board must be professional members, the president of the Association is ex officio and the executive director is a non-voting executive member.

There shall be a minimum of 3 practitioners (persons working in the field of libraries or information services) and 3 educators on the Board (persons teaching library or information science). Terms of office of 3 members of the Board end on 31 December 1996. 3 members are to be elected by members of the Association to hold office from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1999.

Nominations must be in writing, be signed by 2 financial members of the Association, include the consent in writing of the nominee and be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The *curriculum vitae* should be arranged under headings of Present Position, Previous Positions and Professional Activities.

Nominations close at 5pm on 1 August 1996 and should be sent to the executive director, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600, e-mail: enquiry@alia.org.au

Further details are available from the ALIA executive director, or from <http://www.alia.org.au/alia/nominations/board.of.education.html>

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