

### Towards a new peak body for the Australian library community

ALIA and ACLIS are finally to merge into one organisation as a precursor to the establishment of a new peak body based on the organisational strengths of ALIA. On 12 June both Councils agreed to combine services from 1 January 1998.

A great deal of detailed preparation will be necessary before this new relationship can be formalised. But there already exists considerable enthusiasm for the opportunities that this move will create for the library and information community. Initially the emphasis will be on service delivery — to ensure that ALIA and ACLIS members benefit from the co-location in ALIA House. Eventually we can expect to see the emergence of an organisation which will be appropriate to the needs of the sector well into the next century. The following information will provide members with more information about this historic event.

Virginia Walsh

## Announcement from the Steering Committee

Helen Tait (ALIA), Helen Hayes (ACLIS), Warren Horton (NLA)

**A**t an historic joint meeting in Adelaide on 12 June 1997, the ACLIS National Council and the ALIA General Council unanimously agreed to work together to create one new peak, cross-sectoral body to represent the Australian library and information services sector. The creation of a single, unified organisation will result in the highest quality service delivery to members and meet the needs of our community into the 21st century.

The joint meeting in Adelaide, and the decisions flowing from it, followed a detailed strategic review of the need for leadership, representation and coordination in the library and information services sector in Australia. That review process demonstrated overwhelming support for a single peak body to replace both ACLIS and ALIA.

The adoption at the joint meeting of a series of resolutions may be seen as the beginning of a change process. The resolutions prepare the path towards a new organisation and will soon be given added direction by the for-

mulation of a formal Memorandum of Understanding. This will be developed by the Steering Committee for the review process, for formal adoption by ACLIS and ALIA no later than 1 September 1997.

A leadership committee, comprising three representatives from ACLIS and three from ALIA will then manage the detailed change process. The end result will be the creation of a new organisation no later than 1 January 2000. Consultation with the existing memberships of ACLIS and ALIA, and the wider library community, will be a key part of the change process. Extensive publicity will be given to each stage and every opportunity taken to engage the library and information community in discussion of the major issues.

In embarking on this historic course of action, both Councils noted the process will require, from all involved, a generosity of spirit, a strong commitment to change and a genuine desire to create a new peak body for the Australian library community. ■

### Resolutions

At a joint meeting in Adelaide on 12 June 1997, the ACLIS National Council and the ALIA General Council received a report from the Steering Committee for the *Strategic review of library co-ordination and representation*.

The Councils agreed that there is now strong support from the Australian library community for one peak, cross-sectoral organisation. They concluded that there is now a unique opportunity to take a major step to redevelop and revitalise the provision of services to the Australian library community. This can be achieved by combining the existing strengths in program delivery by ACLIS and ALIA into one organisational unit, from which can be developed the new peak body.

The Councils unanimously agreed to the following set of resolutions:

That this joint meeting

1. Agree in principle that ACLIS and ALIA work together to create a new peak cross-sectoral body to represent both institutions and individuals in library and information services in Australia.
2. Recommends that the ALIA General Council agree immediately to give institutional members the right to vote and the right to hold office.
3. Recommends that the ACLIS National Council agree to seek the endorsement of ACLIS members at the appropriate time to formally wind up ACLIS on 30 June 1998 and transfer the net assets to ALIA.
4. Recommends that the ALIA General Council agree that all financial members of ACLIS at 30 June 1998 be deemed to be financial institutional members of ALIA until 31 December 1998.
5. Agrees that from 1 January 1998 the range of services currently provided by ACLIS and by ALIA be available to both ACLIS and ALIA members, and in the case of conferences and the like, at the same discounted member rate.
6. Agrees that the present Steering Committee for the Strategic Review draft a Memorandum of Understanding to give effect to the agreements reached at this meeting, for formal signing by the presidents of ACLIS and ALIA on or about 1 September 1997.
7. Agrees that the necessary actions be set in place by both the ACLIS National Council and the ALIA General Council at their next meetings.