

# A busy time of year

Virginia Walsh, executive director

The December–January period has usually been the perfect time of year to catch up with all those outstanding items that have piled up over the year. But this year we have been kept busy with the Senate Inquiry into the GST and with significant issues on copyright coming to a head.



José Borghino, Rosie Scott, Virginia Walsh, Libby Gleeson, and Virginia Gordon met in Canberra during November

On 24 November I met with José Borghino (Executive Director, Australian Society of Authors), Libby Gleeson (ASA's spokesperson on education lending right), Rosie Scott (Chair of the management committee of the ASA) and Virginia Gordon representing the ABA. The group was in Canberra to lobby key parliamentarians as part of their 'no GST on books' campaign and to persuade the Coalition to introduce the ELR as a matter of urgency. We have agreed to hold further discussions with the ABA and ASA to develop strategies for co-operation. Meanwhile ALIA will continue its lobbying efforts directed at ensuring that the GST-free status proposed for libraries does not produce costly imposts which will affect service delivery to users.

## ALIA copyright services

The ALIA National Office is expanding its range of copyright services. In November, ALIA General Council adopted to a position statement on copyright. This statement clearly identifies ALIA as having the major carriage of copyright issues for the library sector.

If you have any questions about copyright issues in your library please contact Rosemarie Sebastian-Pillai in the ALIA National Office (telephone 02 6285 1877, e-mail [rosemarie.sebastian-pillai@alia.org.au](mailto:rosemarie.sebastian-pillai@alia.org.au)) Rosemarie has degrees in Law and Arts and, prior to joining ALIA as a policy development officer in May 1998, she held the po-

sition of Northern Territory Library copyright policy officer. Her work in the ALIA National Office has included work on the regulation of online content and related digital censorship and privacy issues. She has also been responsible for the current round of contractual negotiations with the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs in relation to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy.

Rosemarie's initial task will be to provide a point of contact within the ALIA National Office for our members. She will also provide policy advice to the executive director and to General Council on all policy issues related to copyright — particularly the digital reform agenda.

Discussions will continue with the Libraries Copyright Committee and with members about the ALIA copyright function. It is expected that, following the decision of the ACLIS copyright officer to seek employment elsewhere, a decision will be taken in the new year about the recruitment of a copyright expert to provide advice to members and to further develop the library sector's copyright advocacy program — here in Australia and through appropriate liaison with international organisations such as IFLA.

It is our goal to ensure that the copyright activity within the ALIA National Office includes all of the following functions:

- provide advice on copyright issues.
- respond to inquiries.
- prepare regular written information on topical issues for distribution through ALIANet and Association publications such as *inCite*.
- provide secretariat services and expert advice to General Council, Copyright Committee and other ALIA divisions.
- act as an advocate for the library and information sector on copyright issues.
- respond to government enquiries.
- liaise with members of parliament and government officials.
- establish relationships and partnerships with other relevant organisations and individuals.
- represent the Association at conferences and meetings.

Please call Rosemarie if you have any questions about copyright or about the copyright function within the ALIA National Office. ■