

# The lobbying continues



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A response from the Coalition on a range of policy issues appears in this issue. We also asked the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Democrats but responses were not received at the time of printing. If responses are received in the near future we will put them up on ALIANet. Although federal parliamentarians may currently be preoccupied with electioneering our work on government policies and programs continues.

Helen Roberts, a member of our Copyright and Intellectual Property advisory group represented ALIA at the Copyright Law Review Committee's consultation on copyright and contracts. This followed our submission to the Committee's issues paper which stressed that contracts should not override the exceptions within the *Copyright Act*.

ALIA also attended consultations on the collecting societies proposed industry code of practice. One of the main concerns of those attending, including ALIA, was representation on the appeals and review mechanism. The societies have been asked to do further work on the code to incorporate the concerns raised.

After detecting some interest by the Minister for the Arts Peter McGauran at the seminar on Public Lending Rights held by the Department of Communications, Information Technology and Arts, ALIA has written to the minister raising our concerns about the position of the cultural sector in discussions on the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS).

The Association has made submissions to the Library Council of NSW Review of the *Library Act 1939*, and the NSW Department of Education inquiry into the provision of public education.

Copies of submissions are on our website at <http://www.alia.org.au/submissions/>. In some instances a submission cannot be put up until permission has been received from the inquiry authority.

### ALIA's advisory groups delivering

The Publishing and Editorial Reference Group has been endorsed. The Board has asked the group as one of its first tasks to provide policy advice on how the Association should publish the record of its future conferences and other significant symposia, taking into account the number of formats and media that may be involved.

The Copyright and Intellectual Property Advisory Group is working with the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) to encourage closer co-operation and discussion. One initiative is a workshop with representatives from the corporate libraries sector and CAL to identify copyright issues associated with services provision and designing model licences to meet the requirements of both CAL and the sector. The Board has endorsed the Association's policy statement. Work is proceeding on the collection of evidence for the anticipated review of the *Digital Agenda Act*.

The Online Content and Regulation reference group has had its inaugural meeting. It has prepared

a submission to the Office of Film and Literature's Review of the Classification Guidelines for films and computer games which looks at the current separate classification schemes. The Association supported streamlining the criteria and the idea of a single consistent set of classification symbols and categories but would not support a model that is intended to tighten censorship. The group is developing a policy statement and website. It is also planning the Association's preparation for the review of the *Broadcasting Services (Online Amendment) Act* anticipated in late 2002.

The working group on career-long library and information education for the knowledge age will be holding a forum on 16 November to commence its consultations.

ALIA representatives have also recently participated in meetings of the Standards Committee IT/19 (Computer Applications in Information and Documentation), Australian Committee on Cataloguing, CREATE (national industry training advisory board), and the National Resource Sharing Policy Committee.

Information on ALIA's advisory groups and representation on other bodies is at <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/>.

### Research

Developing a research profile for the sector has been identified as an important issue by both educators and practitioners. ALIA has held a number of workshops and forums over the last few years with little progress. The Board is keen to clarify the Association's role in co-ordinating issues, communication of research and collaboration for the sector. To do this it is appointing a consultant to identify information and funding resources, establish priorities and strategies and identify mechanisms to encourage information sharing about research in the academy and practice.

ALIA is to be an industry partner with the University of Canberra and the National Library of Australia in the research project *New career — new possibilities* to 'investigate young people's and career counsellors' perceptions about library and information professional information used to inform their consideration of such careers, their preferred sources and formats of information, and their views on the effectiveness of a new information source in changing perceptions of our profession'. Having a better understanding of the effective information sources and preferred communication channels used by young people and career counsellors will greatly assist the Association's promotional activities.

### National Policy Congress

There has been an excellent response to this year's Congress. Ian McCallum will continue the excellent job he did last year as facilitator, ably assisted by Sherrey Quinn. The theme is *Cohesion*. Fortunately we had Qantas as our airline and so travel plans have not been disrupted by the Ansett collapse. Details on the Congress, including the draft agenda are at <http://www.alia.org.au/npc/>. ■