



Heather Nash

Industrial Advisor
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ACT

• **19/7 Key Forums Master Class Implementing Library 2.0**, led by Dr Alex Byrne, University Librarian: University of Technology, Sydney. Cost: ALIA member \$930.30, Non-member \$1094.50. Contact: Key Forums, ph 02 9436 4255, helen.lewis@keyforums.com.au, <http://www.keyforums.com.au>

• **14/8 ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group Visit to ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies**, Venue: CAIS, Ellery Crescent, ANU. Time: TBC. Contact: George Miller, 02 6295 1439, gmiller@grapevine.com.au

NSW

• **12/7 ALIA Children's & Youth Services (NSW) Meeting**: Open to all ALIA members. West Ryde Library, 2 Graf Ave, West Ryde, 6:00pm. Contact: Alex Mills, amills@ryde.nsw.gov.au

• **25/7 Mentoring NSW Library Folk In the Pub**. The Madison Hotel, cnr Devonshire and Chalmers Sts, Surry Hills, upstairs in the Hippo Bar, 6:00pm. Contact: Julian Sortland, 0429 470 672, julian@sortland.co.uk

• **2/8 Australian Copyright Council seminars**, Sydney Presented by ACC copyright law experts. A day of seminars on copyright topics for librarians, including the new provision for maintaining or operating a library or archive. Contact Reception: ph 02 8815 9777, info@copyright.org.au, <http://www.copyright.org.au>

• **12/8 New Graduates Group Newcastle/Central Coast visit to Avondale College Library**, Lake Macquarie Campus, 582 Freemans Drive, Cooranbong. Time: 2:00pm. Cost: Free, refreshments provided. Contact: Narelle Bell, ph 0408 271 791, narbell3@yahoo.com

• **17/8 Key Forums Master Class Marketing Your Library and its Services**, led by Craig Anderson, Library Director: RMIT University. Venue: Harbour View Hotel, Sydney. Time: 8:30am–5:15pm. Cost: ALIA member \$930.30, Non-member \$1094.50. Contact: Key Forums, ph 02 9436 4255, helen.lewis@keyforums.com.au, <http://www.keyforums.com.au>

• **27/9 Key Forums Master Class Implementing Library 2.0**, led by Dr Alex Byrne, University Librarian: University of Technology, Sydney. Cost: ALIA member \$930.30, Non-member \$1094.50. Contact: Key Forums, ph 02 9436 4255, helen.lewis@keyforums.com.au, <http://www.keyforums.com.au>

NT

• **18/7 Top End Meeting**. Karama Library, Kalymnos Drive, 5:30pm. Contact Sarah White, 08 8935 9991, sarah.white@palmerston.nt.gov.au

• **25/7 Top End Garden Party**. Chinese Gardens, CDU, 5:30pm. Contact Sarah White, 08 8935 9991, sarah.white@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Recent inquiries: OH&S and working with children

Due to staff changes in the ALIA National Office, it has been necessary to choose new Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) representatives to form the designated working group required under ACT legislation. The Managing Editor at ALIA, Karen McVicker, has been our First Aid Officer and now that she has left the association, another officer will need to fill that role. These changes have been a reminder of the general legislative requirements for these roles and of the training standards and level of allowances set for First Aid officers.

Relevant OH&S legislation throughout Australian states and territories either makes the formation of OH&S committees compulsory, as in the ACT, or provides guidelines for establishment of such committees where employees or an employer request it. In NSW and ACT, workplaces with small numbers of employees are exempt from the general requirements and OH&S matters would be overseen by the relevant government official, usually the OH&S Commissioner. In larger workplaces it is usually a requirement—and a good idea—that committee membership represents various divisions of the workplace. Legislation within each jurisdiction sets out the duties and rights of employers and employees with regard to OH&S matters on which they may take relevant action, information to which they are entitled and timeframes within which action should be taken once a workplace health issue has been identified.

Acts of Parliament and related regulations covering these matters should be available in each workplace but can be found on each state government website, usually under the legislation, law and justice or WorkCover sections.

First Aid matters

Regulations covering provision of First Aid services within the workplace are the responsibility of WorkCover authorities, or the equivalent, in each state or territory. The general requirement is that a First Aid kit, to set specifications, be available in each workplace and that where a certain number of people are employed, usually more than 25, the employer has a responsibility for ensuring that at least one officer has completed a recognised First Aid course.

The recognised standard of training for workplace First Aid is the Senior Certificate (Level 2) offered by the Red Cross or St

John's Ambulance. These courses require a minimum of 18 hours training and can usually be completed over two days. Costs for each course are in the \$160–175 range. Further details, including course timetables, can be found at <http://www.redcross.org.au/firstaid> and <http://www.stjohn.com.au>

Most industrial agreements provide that an allowance be paid by employers to designated First Aid officers. Within the ALIA National Office the level of allowance is equivalent to that paid by the ACT Government to its employees, currently \$23.30 per fortnight for a Level 2 Certificate holder and \$27.65 for a Level 3 Certificate holder. Where library workers assume a designated First Aid role and an allowance is not specified, it is recommended that allowances paid by the relevant state or territory government be followed.

Working with children

A query was recently received from a public library in NSW as to whether library staff are required to have police checks where their duties might involve interaction with children. ALIA's most recent information is that, following a review of the Working With Children Check conducted in 2005, the NSW Commission for Children and Young People advises that working in a public library does not meet their definition of child-related employment <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/director/check/employerguidelines/child-related.cfm>

It is important to note that child protection legislation is state-based and requirements do vary. If staff are uncertain about how to proceed, they should seek advice from relevant state and territory government agencies. A list of agencies can be found at the Australian Institute for Family Studies <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/policechecks>

For teacher-librarians, specific policies can be found on the websites of state and territory departments of education.

WorkChoices update

ALIA members will be aware from press reports of the Federal Government's foreshadowed changes to the Workplace Relations Act, designed to introduce a fairness test in relation to protected award conditions. The amending legislation was passed by the House of Representatives on 30 May but has yet to be considered by the Senate. Further information regarding these amendments can be found on the Employment pages of ALIA's website at www.alia.org.au/employment/workplace.html, which has links to relevant government sites.