ALIA **Federal Election** advocacy

As part of ALIA's federal election advocacy, Roxanne Missingham, ALIA President, and Sue Hutley, ALIA Executive Director, will be meeting with politicians in the Liberal/Nationals, Labor and Democrat parties and will be putting the following questions to them. Their answers will be published on the ALIA website and if the election dates permit, in the next issue of *inCite*.

ALIA members can use the same questions with politicians they meet during the election campaign.

1. What is your party's commitment to supporting Australians' access to information through libraries, particularly public libraries? Will you support, for example, funding for the purchase of quality digital content for all Australians (such as the Electronic Resources Australia project (**http://era.nla.gov.au/index.html**) and a national digitisation program?

2. What is your party's position on copyright?

3. What is your party's position of ensuring free public access to government information, particularly government publications and e-government services?

4. What is your party's position on Internet filtering and libraries?

5. Workforce planning and education are critical to ensuring libraries are able to be staffed by qualified individuals. Has your party a policy on education and workforce development that will enable this to occur?

For further information on policies of our main political parties, visit the following sites:

> http://www.alp.org.au
> http://www.democrats.org.au
> http://www.greens.org.au
> http://www.liberal.org.au
> http://www.nationals.org.au

Every ALIA member can be an advocate for the issues that affect our profession, not only in the context of this federal election but whenever the opportunity arises. Use ALIA's Objects as an advocacy focus: <**http://alia.org.au/governance/alia.vision.html**>.

ALIA's advocacy is focused on privacy, copyright, national broadband strategy, online content regulation and filtering, and government publications and information. Visit our advocacy page for background information on these issues: <**http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/**>.

ALIA'S Boardroom Bound is here!

ALIA is proud to announce the launch of **Boardroom Bound**, a board succession planning strategy for ALIA. To ensure ALIA continues to be relevant and influential in the Australian and international library and information science arena, it is critical for the board to be composed of diverse, enthusiastic, appropriately skilled and visionary individuals committed to the profession and the association.

There are many ALIA members who can fill this need, and the program will provide the opportunity to learn about the function of the ALIA Board and the role of the Board Director. It will also provide the means for ALIA members who have an interest in pursuing a future appointment to the board to develop their knowledge, skills and competencies in this area. The ultimate aim of the succession plan is to increase the number of high-quality ALIA members available for board nomination.

The Boardroom Bound program will evolve over the next few years. This year a web page is being released — it can be accessed from the ALIA site at <**http://www.alia.org.au**>. It will provide access to information about the board and the board nomination process including a timeline and nomination forms. It will also provide links to organisations that provide training opportunities and to key resources and readings. You can even register your interest in nominating for the Board and in doing so be allocated a 'Board Buddy' (i.e. a current or ex-board director) who can chat to you about the board and what is involved in being a director.

In 2008 a workshop will be held at the Biennial Conference in Alice Springs. More details on the workshop will be available closer to the event.

As an incorporated company, ALIA's continuing success depends on having a strong and effective board. The Boardroom Bound program is an important step in ensuring that ALIA has the leaders it needs to continue as a vital tool for the profession in Australia. Please take time to visit and of course your feedback is always welcome.

Helen Partridge
ALIA Board Member