

Directline



What's the 'State of the Nation' for Library Technician Education?

It's with great pleasure that I can advise that the *Library Technician Education in Australia: State of the Nation Report* has now been published and is available at <http://www.alia.org.au/education>. This has been a significant body of work for the Association over the last 18 months; the report covers the 17 site visits to TAFE and RTO locations. Why is the report important? It covers the history of course accreditation for library technicians in Australia, and outlines recommendations for improvements to library technician training into the future. The ALIA Education and PD Standing Committee will be working together to further the recommendations. Library technician educators will also be discussing the outcomes of the report at their August meeting in Brisbane in September.

Federal Budget and the Federal Election

ALIA produces a Federal Budget summary every year for its members in order to highlight initiatives of significance to the library and information sector and other cultural institutions. We have provided links to budget papers and media releases so that you can read more about the issues that interest you. The budget summary is available here: <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy>.

The ALIA Roundtable meeting held at ALIA House on 20 May hosted representatives from key library organisations to discuss the compelling issues for Australian libraries in the election year, and agreed on a number of key outcomes and priorities for lobbying and advocacy. Further information at <http://www.alia.org.au/roundtable/2010>

School library and Teacher Librarian Inquiry

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity continues in locations around the country with public hearings in capital cities. Transcripts are available, and you can still write a letter of support to your local MP. Thousands of you have also listened to the webstreaming of the hearings, where witnesses have told their stories of the contribution that teacher librarians make to school life, student outcomes, and the future directions of literacy and learning in our country. You will also have seen the video available on the APH About the House News website, available here http://www.aph.gov.au/house/house_news/Index.asp.

Point all of your colleagues and friends to <http://www.alia.org.au/schoollibraries> where we will keep you up-to-date on developments and new links to information and resources as we move forward.

Advocacy – Every member an advocate

Following on from the National Advisory Congress in 2009 which focused on lobbying and advocacy, ALIA members can now participate in free advocacy workshops being delivered around the country. These events are

proving popular, so book early. You will find listings for your states in this edition of *inCite* (page 33), or by visiting the webpage, where you can also find registration form: <http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/pd.services/every.member.advocate.html>.

Safer Internet Group

Internet filtering has again been a great topic of discussion, on radio, TV, online, and in over the kitchen table. ALIA has issued another media release in partnership with the Safer Internet Group, Internet Filtering: what people really think, available here: <http://www.alia.org.au/media.room/2010.05.10.html>.

Your membership dollars contributes to this work, through the staff time it takes to develop briefings and documents, meetings with ministers, and web updates. Knowing that your support is behind me (as the Executive Director representing you) is part of the powerful message we are sending to those who believe that restriction of access to information is a better option than an unworkable filter system. <http://www.alia.org.au/internetfiltering>.

ALIA Annual Report 2009

The 2009 Annual Report and audited financial statements is printed for members in this edition. You can also access these documents anytime at <http://www.alia.org.au/publishing/annual.reports>. Like many other organisations, from 2011 ALIA will be opting for a 'greener' method of Annual Report distribution. On your next membership renewal form you will be requested to opt for either print or electronic distribution of the annual report.

New staff and board

We welcome to the ALIA Executive Rob Miller to the position of Chief Operating Officer and Janetta Mascilongo as Director: Professional Services. We are also pleased to welcome Harry Carroll as our new Financial Controller. We are all looking forward to moving ahead with the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/planning>.

Graham Black, our President 2010-2011, and I are also pleased to welcome our new Board members, John Bayliss, Andrew Hocken, and Julie Rae, and also our new Vice-President/President-elect Margaret Allen. You can find all Board member contact details beside Frontline and the Executive and LLO contact details beside Directline.

On a personal note, I am participating in the CEO Sleepout this year – on 17 June I will be sleeping out on the concrete for a night to raise awareness and funds for homelessness. Libraries contribute to the lives of homeless Australians in many ways, and I am hoping that ALIA members will support me in fundraising to make improvements for these people within our communities. You can support me at <http://www.ceosleepout.org.au>.

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Your local ALIA contact

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