



...And much more than money

Margaret's *Frontline* column this month certainly provides some significant issues for us all to consider.

The financial matters she raises are the subject of discussion for almost every professional association that I know of. Our association is currently in a

stronger financial position than most because of its asset backing and surpluses built up over the years but we need to maintain a close watch on the future.

It's important to remember however, that sustainability is about more than money.

It is also about the relevance of the skills of our members to employers and clients. It's about the ability of our members to be able to advocate their skills and value in the workplace. It's about the profession being seen as relevant and valuable by political decision makers and it is about the Association being seen as relevant and valuable by its members.

If you haven't done so already, visit the ALIA website to see just how much the training program and PD scheme have changed and grown to help you maintain the currency of your skill sets. Join the PD scheme and proudly display your CP post nominals.

The continuing accreditation of University and TAFE courses that ALIA undertakes every year, together with our widened eligibility assessments, ensure that use of your ALIA professional status and post nominals provides clear evidence of current and relevant professional qualifications.

The *Every Member an Advocate* workshop will be reprised at Biennial 2012 this year. This is just another reason to attend ALIA's flagship conference and a fantastic opportunity to upgrade your skills and network with your peers.

Through the joint efforts of National Office staff, Advisory Committees, Groups and volunteers with specific skills and interests, we continue to promote ALIA member views to policy makers. The issues raised are as diverse as copyright in the digital age, the value of school librarians to the education system, the community engagement value of public libraries in

educating all citizens on cyber-safety and broader use of technology.

More immediately, during 2011/12 the Association's efforts have delivered over \$700 000 of value to public libraries across Australia to support clients with a print disability. This was achieved through the generous support of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Margaret has referred to the National Advisory Congress in *Frontline*. Your Board and the National Office depend on forums such as this, and our Advisory Committees, to voice member's desires about where they want the Association to focus its efforts. In an organisation as broad as ours, establishing such priorities is an extremely complex undertaking and it will only be successful if members continue to use these avenues or our other channels such as posting to our Facebook and Twitter feeds or writing to *INCITE*.

So, while we have to maintain a clear focus on our financial sustainability it is no way a myopic view.

As with the broader definition of sustainability as combination of environmental, social and economic stewardship, so it is with ALIA. The Association's Strategic Plan calls for us to maintain and grow our assets and resources but that is just one component of our overall objectives

to empower and sustain the profession.

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ALIA SNAPSHOT

NLS6 announced

The New Librarians Symposium 6 in 2013 is the first to be organised under the new conference model recently endorsed by the ALIA Board. NLS6 will be organised by a committee of volunteers with support from ALIA National Office, co-chaired by Kate Davis of Queensland University of Technology and Vanessa Warren of Macquarie University.

Australia in the Asian Century Task Force: submission completed

ALIA, through the support of our Asia Pacific Special Interest Group has completed a submission to the Australia in the Asian Century Task Force. www.alia.org.au/advocacy/submissions/ALIA.Submission.to.Asian.century.task.force.pdf