



ALIA TAKES ADCA ADVOCACY FIGHT ON THE ROAD

In December 2013 the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) went into administration when promised funding was axed by the federal Department of Health. The ADCA Library's collection of 97,000 essential resources, containing many unique items that are neither freely available nor traceable through Google, is headed for landfill.

ALIA acted to coordinate an advocacy campaign on behalf of the ADCA Library and to raise the profile of the vital role such specialist collections play, taking the message right to the doorstep of Assistant Health Minister Senator Fiona Nash in her hometown of Young in New South Wales.

Advertisements were placed in the Young Witness newspaper and a stall was taken at Young's National Cherry Festival on the first weekend in December, selling books from the collection to raise awareness about the closure. The proceeds were donated to Lifeline—one of the many charities that use the National Drug Information Service run by ADCA. ALIA Board members, staff and volunteers were there to hand out flyers and talk to the community (including the Cherry Festival Queen) about the issue.

These activities were backed up by web-based resources and social media promoting an SMS message campaign to enable supporters everywhere to voice their support quickly and clearly to the Senator.

Reinstating the funding, previously approved through to 2015, would at least give the Council time to find new funding, or a new home, for this largely unique collection. As INCITE goes to press, there's no reprieve in sight for the collection or the hundreds of doctors, social workers, psychologists and other health professionals who rely on these resources for their work with vulnerable Australian families.

ALIA still hopes the Senator will take on board the evidence of ADCA's value and the reaction of the health community to its closure. Watch for further updates in ALIA Weekly, on our website and in INCITE.

Assistant Health Minister **Fiona Nash** has pulled funding from the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia

It is days away from extinction.

Its library of nearly 100,000 essential books and articles—an internationally significant collection—will go to landfill if we can't find a home for it.

Health workers on the front-line of drug addiction, alcoholism, substance abuse, homelessness, poverty and violence are up in arms.

A few weeks isn't long enough. We need the Minister to give us time.

Want to help? Join our petition by texting 'save the books' to

0426 143 349



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Happy New Year!

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