



Advocacy pays off. Sometimes it takes a lot of hard work and determination but, as **BRADLEY O'BRIEN** reports, advocacy can reap rewards, as in the recent case of a win for Library Technicians.

We all pay our ALIA membership every year, but there are times when we think, well what does my membership cover, apart from my copy of *INCITE* and member rates for ALIA symposiums?

Well, your ALIA membership fee helps ALIA to carry out a lot of functions each year and helps to advocate for recognition of our profession!

Advocacy is not a quick process and is not always obvious, but a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes, carried out by dedicated ALIA volunteers, supported by the team at ALIA House.

As a result of this work we have some fantastic news for Library Technicians who work in the Australian Public Service (APS) sector.

But first let's go back to 2015, when a director in the Therapeutic Goods Administration wanted to recruit a Library Technician and discovered that the APS sector's Job Family Model did not include the role of Library Technician. It did, however, include the roles of Librarian and Library Assistant.

So at the request of the director, ALIA approached the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) to look at including the role of a Library Technician in the APS Job Family Model.

The timing worked in our favour as the APSC was currently reviewing the model with the intention of updating the tiered structure to include new functions and roles where appropriate.

That was back in July 2015. Fast forward to September 2017, when the revised APS Job Family Model was released, which now includes the role of Library Technician.

During the two years it took for the new model to be released, the team at ALIA sent follow-up letters to the APSC, making sure that they had not forgotten to include this important role.

So you can see that advocacy does work, and we, along with the Library Technicians in the APS can celebrate their role being acknowledged within the revised APS Job Family Model.

It's now time to celebrate! 🎉

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Australian Library and
Information Association



You are an
important part
of our sector.

We invite you to
join us!

Allied Field Membership

Are you a professional from another field
working in the library and information sector?

ALIA recognises that our sector is increasingly seeking employees with specialist skills to support the expanding range of programs and services that contemporary library and information organisations provide.

- Share your specialist skills with the wider LIS community.
- Connect with your peers across Australia.
- Have a say on issues affecting the sector.
- Increase your professional impact and understanding, through ALIA's professional development opportunities.

Learn more about ALIA's Allied Field* membership and eligibility
www.alia.org.au/alia-allied-field-membership-faqs

*Allied Field membership does not meet the requirements of jobs requiring eligibility for Associate or Library Technician membership of ALIA.