




INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Australian libraries have a reach that stretches around the world and creates change internationally as well as locally.

Libraries contribute to society every day in many different ways, from community hubs to centres of learning, from cultural flagships to online information platforms. The success of this input can be seen in the work that the library community is doing to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Earlier this year ALIA released the report, [Australian libraries support the Sustainable Development Goals](#), in it you can see a wide range of ways that libraries across Australia are promoting and supporting the SDGs.

Australian library and information professionals contribute internationally. For example, with representatives on at least 11 IFLA committees, Australia is punching well above its weight on the international stage.

In the Pacific, ALIA has recently accredited the Library and Information Services Diploma offered by the University of the South Pacific TAFE and also given a presentation to members of the local Fiji association.


ALIA also has a number of MOUs with other national library associations. Recently, we updated our MOU with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) in the United Kingdom. In the update ALIA and CILIP agreed to continue reciprocal recognition of higher education and vocational education qualifications accredited by the two bodies. It has also been agreed that each association will recognise the other's professional development programs. ALIA will recognise CILIP's MCLIP and CILIP will recognise ALIA's AALIA (CP). What this means for ALIA and CILIP Members is that if you go to work in either country and join the local national Association and have previously held Chartership with CILIP or Associate Certified Professional Membership with ALIA for two years, you can directly transfer between these two levels of Membership. For further information please contact education@alia.org.au. 

Partnering with librarians to promote the Fair Work Message

The Fair Work Ombudsman wants librarians to know it provides material in a multitude of languages to help ensure that workers understand their rights in Australia.

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) is an independent statutory office responsible for promoting harmonious, productive and cooperative workplace relations and for ensuring compliance with Australia's workplace laws. The FWO believes that librarians are valuable partners in promoting the fair work message particularly to any migrant workers visiting libraries looking for information about their workplace rights and responsibilities.

The FWO's services and resources are free to all workers and employers in Australia. Recognising that migrant workers can be less aware of their workplace rights and responsibilities, the FWO's website enables visitors to translate website content, including fact sheets, information guides and templates into [40 languages](#) with the click of one button. The website can automatically recognise a user's settings and translate the site if their language setting is anything other than English. To supplement this translation tool the FWO has also developed professionally translated language resources, videos and topic-based information about pay, leave, ending employment and other workplace issues in 30 languages. Other assistance that librarians may find useful for their users include the FWO's [reporting tool](#) that enables workers to anonymously lodge their concerns about workplace issues in 16 languages.

If librarians would like to have hard copy materials, the FWO has a booklet for business owners 'What all employers need to know about Australian workplace laws' and a postcard for workers providing information about how to contact the FWO for assistance. These are available in English, Korean and Chinese. For further information or to order hard copy resources please contact community.engagement@fwo.gov.au. 

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