

Together we make a difference

I have had the privilege to work for over ten years with ALIA in the Learning team. We passionately support education and professional development (PD) and work with ALIA staff, educators of ALIA accredited courses, and volunteers to anticipate the future and develop programs that will build resilience and encourage high quality professionalism. We strive to fulfil the Object in the association constitution (bit.ly/2OA2HX1):

'To ensure the high standard of personnel engaged in information provision and foster their professional interests and aspirations.'

A personal commitment to ongoing learning is more compelling than ever and using the ALIA PD Scheme or the ALIA Proficiency Program as supporting frameworks just makes common sense.

Data from the *ALIA LIS Education Skills and Employment Trend Report 2018* (bit.ly/2KALRGq) clearly indicates that our profession is in transition and that there are challenges ahead. The ALIA Learning team is working consistently to improve support for our Members to help them create the learning habits that lead to excellence.

We are completing our ALIA PD Scheme compliance audit and we are encouraged and inspired by the reflections provided by Members. ALIA PD Scheme membership has grown consistently over the last ten years. We now have more Certified Professionals and Distinguished Certified Professionals than ever before. Well done to all those who have made, and carried out with dedication, their commitment to their PD.

The new Proficiency Program, open to student and general members is gaining in popularity. The Public Library Proficiency partnerships are also continuing to provide guided learning opportunities in employer sponsored programs.

The ALIA Mentoring Scheme will be running its fourth intake in June 2019 after success with its scaffolded plan of support for mentees. We are also partnering with university employers creating a targeted and focussed academic mentoring program.

Our advocacy priority this year has been Indigenous matters and I am pleased that we have been able to support an Indigenous student undertaking library and information studies. We are also moving closer to achieving some of the goals listed from our 2018 Leadership & Innovation Forums on 'Meaningful and respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Knowledge, culture and heritage – what more do we need to do?'

Consider directing your PD using the ALIA PD Scheme specialisation 'Indigenous engagement'. We hope those using this specialisation will gain special insight into how to improve their library or information service and to make a difference by celebrating UNESCO's Year of Indigenous Languages.

2019 is an opportunity to make a difference for the better. ALIA has created our first reconciliation plan and supported the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, but this is just the beginning of the changes that are needed to address the disadvantage, discrimination, and inequality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and fulfil the promise of reconciliation.

I passionately believe our profession has a leadership role to play in supporting change, if together, we embrace and reinforce justice, rights, and respect for the First Peoples of Australia.

Leadership is having a compelling vision, a comprehensive plan, relentless implementation, and talented people working together. – **Alan Mulally**

On a much more personal note 2019 is a year of change for me, as I am retiring from my position as Director of Learning at ALIA. I just want to say thank you everyone who has supported me in my work at ALIA.

I started at ALIA as a research officer in May 2008 and now, over ten years later, will be leaving having worked with an amazing team of dedicated passionate staff and ALIA volunteers. To those I worked with across all the areas that the Learning team touched, course accreditation committees; policy committees; ALIA PD Scheme specialisation working groups; ALIA Advisory Committees; IFLA Committees; and ALIA Board Members, thank you for your commitment and expertise. A special thank you to our devoted educators, 40 years ago passionate educators helped me join this profession and your role is still essential in guiding and developing our library and information students into competent professionals eager to keep learning. Thank you all and keep the passion burning. 🌟

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