

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

The Board of Education met on 20 and 21 October 1988.

Revised conditions for Associateship

(a) Admission of graduates of courses not recognised by the Association

Concern has been expressed, particularly by library educators, regarding the admission to Associateship under the new eligibility criteria of persons who have not completed recognised courses in library and information studies. In response to this concern the Board has resolved that the guidelines for admission to Associateship be amended to include the following paragraph: 'Panels are expected to clarify with applicants who have enrolled in but not completed courses in librarianship and information studies, the circumstances of their non-completion of studies. This may require, with the applicant's approval, direct contact with the institution in which the applicant enrolled for studies.'

The Board felt that further information about the number of applicants involved and the circumstances surrounding their applications is required before further guidance can be given to the panels. The Board is to review the assessment criteria at the end of 1989.

(b) Recognition of South African and New Zealand qualifications

The Board noted the resolution of General Council that the Board of Education not establish mechanisms giving automatic recognition to South African trained librarians or give any other favoured nation treatment to South African librarians. It resolved to assess all applicants for Associateship holding South African qualifications in library and information science on an individual basis.

The Board also resolved to accept persons holding the Diploma in Librarianship of the Victoria University of Wellington as meeting the requirements for Associateship.

Post-nominal letters

The Board considered the question of post-nominal letters to be conferred on Associates and Fellows after the Association changes its name, and the transition arrangements for post-nominal letters.

It was felt that as acronyms are usually spelt out, rather than pronounced, it is unlikely that members will be unduly concerned if Fellows of the Association are given the post-nominal letters 'FALIA'.

As admission to Associateship and Fellowship is an ongoing process, it was felt that the Association is not hindered by any restrictions involving transition arrangements for post-nominal letters.

The Board resolved to recommend to General Council that, as from the date that the Association formally becomes the Australian Library and Information Association, the post-nominal letters for persons newly admitted to Associateship and Fellowship be known as AALIA and FALIA.

It further resolved to recommend to Council that Associates and Fellows admitted before the establishment of ALIA should retain their existing certificates as Associates and Fellows and that as from the date of establishment of ALIA they be permitted to use the letters ALAA/FLAA or AALIA/FALIA at their discretion, and that employing authorities be advised to that effect.

The Chairman has agreed to prepare, in consultation with the Library Technicians Section, a paper regarding the possible introduction of post-nominal letters for library technicians. This will be discussed at the Board's first meeting in 1989.

Library technician courses in country areas

The Board has recognised the desirability of access to external study programs for library technicians across Australia and invited Kaye Barrett, Head, Division of Library Practice at Sydney Technical College to its meeting to discuss this with Board members.

The Board accepts that the training of library technicians varies somewhat from state to state but feels that a single, national external course is the most cost effective way of providing training for library technicians in country areas.

Selection and training of librarianship students

The Board had a wide-ranging discussion on the selection and training of librarianship students in response to a paper prepared by the Chairman.

A number of problems relating to this issue were identified, including:

- a lack of hard evidence that library and information studies courses are not attracting the right sort of student;
- difficulty in defining the problem: does it involve the capacity of students, their lack of motivation or a lack of skills?

- should some of the skills/qualities which are perceived to be lacking in some students be developed in initial courses or in continuing education courses after graduation?

- the quality of students appears to vary from state to state.

The Chairman is to prepare a further paper on this issue for the next meeting of the Board. In the meantime, the Secretary is to contact other professional associations to determine if they have addressed similar concerns.

Transition of Library Technician Certificate Courses

The Secretary has obtained advice from those states which changed their library technician courses from Certificate to Associate Diploma level in 1988, regarding the relationship between the old and the new courses.

The Board wishes to ensure that library technicians are not disadvantaged in the transition of courses from Certificate to Associate Diploma level. Accordingly, the Secretary is to write to the Director of TAFE in each state and to major employers of library technicians, that library technicians holding either a Certificate or an Associate Diploma which has been recognised by the Association, meet the minimum criteria for library technician membership of the LAA.

Major employers will be further advised that the Association encourages them to make eligibility for library technician membership of the LAA an essential requirement when advertising for library technician positions.

Review of Education Policy Statements

The Queensland Branch has sought the Board's support for a review of education for librarianship in Queensland.

The Chairman is to write to the Queensland Branch conveying the Board's support in principle for such a review.

The Australian Libraries Summit

The Australian Libraries Summit referred a number of items to the Board of Education. The Board is waiting for clarification of some of these items, however action has been taken on the following:

Resolution NN1: That the LAA re-examine the Government White Paper in relation to issues raised at the Summit.

The Chairman is to write to the Higher Education authorities in each state, except the Northern Territory and Tasmania, supporting in principle the concept of amalgamations of tertiary institutions, and emphasising the positive aspects of amalgamation. A copy of this will be sent to all library and information schools.

Branch Presidents in each state except the Northern Territory and Tasmania will be requested, as a matter of priority, to convene a meeting of the Heads of professional and library technician schools (either separately or together) and inviting members of the Board in that state to explain the Board's view of amalgamation. The Branch Presidents will be asked to prepare a clear statement of the meeting's preferences with regard to preferred options concerning amalgamation.

The President of the Tasmanian Branch will be asked to convene a similar meeting to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of retaining small schools of librarianship.

Resolution NN2: That the LAA foster the development of an ongoing forum of library and information education to, at least annually, monitor developments in the library and information industry and to recommend educational plans and strategies for action.

The Board felt that this could be best achieved by extending the role of the Education for Librarianship Section. The Chairman is to contact the 1989 President of the Education for Librarianship Section suggesting that it discuss a change of name for the Section in order to broaden its membership base, and proposing that the Section discuss with the Board, the development of a more formal mechanism by which library educators and Board members can meet.

Resolution NN7: That the LAA pursue avenues to ensure that the funding for library and information science courses is in line with other technologically dependent areas.

The Secretary is to seek information concerning a move in the UK to give equal weighting to library and information studies schools and computer schools with regard to technology grants.

The Chairman will contact the Department of Employment, Education & Training regarding the need for library and information studies schools to maintain up-to-date technology, referring to the

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change in the United Kingdom and the increasing use of technology.

Library schools will be advised of this action and asked if they would like the Board's support, at institutional level, for improved technological resources.

Resolution NN8: That the LAA, in conjunction with library schools, examine policy and procedure in order to increase the proportion of library students taking Masters degrees by research and Ph.Ds.

The Board felt that this issue will be affected by the outcomes of the projected amalgamations of institutions, however as an interim step, the Secretary is to write to library schools asking them if they would like to contribute articles or advertisements regarding their Master and Ph.D. programs.

Resolution NN9: LAA, in conjunction with library schools, examine policy and procedure to ensure that a full range of courses is available through external study. The Board determined that for the time being it would pursue only the proposed review of education for librarianship in Queensland and the introduction of a national external course for library technicians.

Workforce matters

Work on the Board's proposed collection of workforce data has ceased pending final advice regarding the availability of finance. No money has been allocated to the project in the 1989 LAA Draft Budget.

Course recognition

The Diploma of Information Management-Librarianship offered by the University of NSW was assessed on 8 and 9 September 1988. A summary of the report will be tabled at the General Council meeting.

The Professional Standards Committee has drawn up a revised course recognition visit program for 1989, taking into account the Board's reduced budget allocation. The Committee has removed the conventions normally relating to course recognition visits in an attempt to reduce the cost of visits to a minimum. It has therefore used local representatives on panels wherever possible. In some cases this has necessitated appointing library educators to panels assessing courses in their own states.

By doing this, the cost of course recognition visits has been reduced by more than 50 percent, however there is still a shortfall in the Board's budget of approximately \$5,000, which places the entire course recognition program in jeopardy.

Retrospectivity of course recognition

Following enquiries from persons holding qualifications which were not recognised by the Association until after they had completed the course, the Board has stated that it is not the Association's policy to recognise courses retrospectively.

Board meeting dates in 1989

The following dates have been set for Board meetings in 1989:
February 16 and 17 June 22 and 23
October 19 and 20.

Louise Lansley
Secretary
Board of Education

'I hope that AIDS and Compassion is widely distributed, read and acted on.'

Warren R. Talbot, Executive Director of the Australian Federation of AIDS organisations

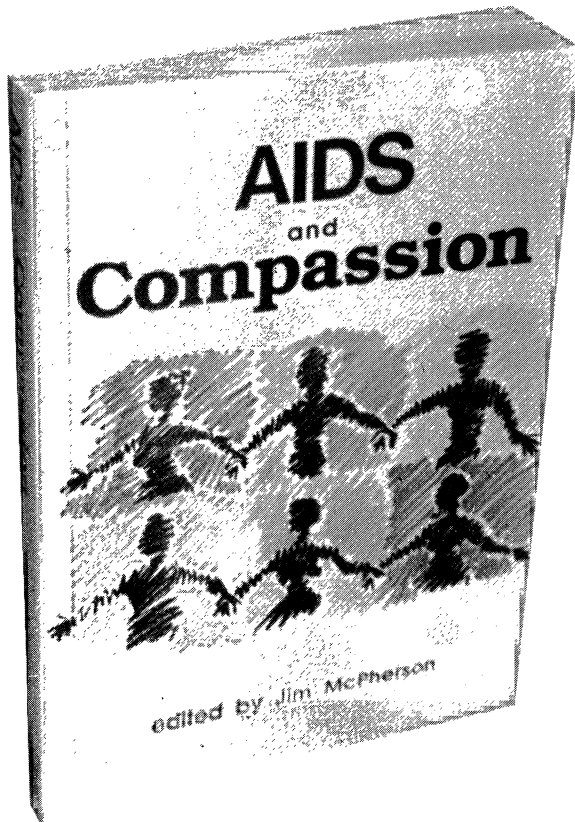
'This is a great work which deserves wide recognition.'

Senator Michael Tate, Minister for Justice

AIDS and COMPASSION is a comprehensive resource handbook designed to help all Australians—especially those in the helping professions—make an informed and compassionate response to the AIDS epidemic and its victims. The book is written in an easy to read style by leading figures in the fields of medicine, law, pastoral care, ethics, education and theology. The 40 different authors include leading specialist Dr Gordon White, Professor Tony Basten, Mr Justice Michael Kirby, Ita Buttrose, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishops Frank Little and Peter Carnley, Wes Campbell, John Roffey and clergy, counsellors and educators with frontline experience of working with AIDS sufferers. The book stresses the need for a practical and positive, rather than a judgmental, response.

The contents include:

- how AIDS is caught and passed on;
- tough questions about sexual behaviour;
- accounts of how to care for AIDS victims;
- the world-wide economic, social and political consequences of the epidemic;
- difficult decisions and practical questions faced by AIDS workers;
- statements on AIDS by the major churches;
- education about AIDS in schools, churches and the local community.



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The LAA's *Salary Scales* booklets are now available. Free to LAA members and \$4 to non-members.

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