

## LIAISE

## Looking for a job — Liaise!

The NSW Branch of ALIA is pleased to announce that its employment service has been revitalised, reactivated — and renamed . . . LIAISE.

The new name is a reflection of the importance of networking within the library and information industry, and it is anticipated that the service will become an extension of the existing network which sources information, jobs and people.

The service, which places librarians, library technicians and other library support workers, predominantly in the metropolitan area, has been operational for a tiny two months. Registration is free, but only personal financial members of the ALIA can lodge applications — yet another reason to join your professional Association!

The service operates as a contact service only. The onus still remains with the employer to interview applicants put forward by the Service Coordinator.

Any employer can utilise the service for full-time, part-time, temporary or permanent staff placement. Full institutional members of ALIA receive their contact listing of potential employees for a \$25 service fee, plus \$25 for the first 5 names. Non-institutional members are charged at the rate of a \$50 service fee and \$50 for the first 5 names.

Information sheets and applicant and employer registration forms are available from the coordinator, Sue Innes on (02) 250 0376.

Remember, whether you're looking for a job or desperately in need of staff — LIAISE first.



## ALIA Study Grant Awards for 1991

Applications for the ALIA Study Grant Awards for 1991 should reach the Division Support Officer, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600 by 1 September 1990.

Application forms are available from the ALIA national office, Telephone: (06) 285 1877 or (008) 02 0071.

# LETTERS

## Dear Editor,

I refer to the letter from Mr AJ Gans in your edition of 11 June 1990 concerning the recent tender for library services and the commission on turnover to be charged against sales made under that contract. Mr Gans also wrote to me on that subject. I would like to take the opportunity, via this page, to explain to your readers the facts relating to the introduction of the commission.

In 1988 the Government decided that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) must recover the costs of its operations — that decision is binding on all public servants, librarians and Purchasing and Sales Group (PSG) staff alike. In order to meet that requirement, DAS applies a small commission on turnover to common use contracts arranged by the PSG.

Similarly, the purchasing rules concerning open and effective competition also bind all public servants. Common use contracts, which are established in accordance with those rules, save departments and agencies the administrative effort and cost involved in arranging tenders. In the absence of a common use contract those bodies would be required to go through those processes each time they wanted to acquire goods and services such as library services.

Mr Gans' views on the value and cost of the common use contract tender process do not coincide with the experience of the PSG. Over a long period of time PSG has found that contracts arranged for a fixed period, such as 3 years, aggregate demand, reduce the cost of the purchasing process and give a continuity of supplier, and demand for that supplier, all of which result in savings to the Commonwealth and the individual librarian.

PSG is a client-oriented service organisation. To assess whether its involvement will add value to the purchasing process, prior to arranging a contract PSG evaluates the need for that contract and the costs involved in arranging and maintaining it. Should the costs of arranging a common use contract exceed the potential benefits to clients, PSG would decide, after consultation with those clients, not to arrange such a contract. Once in place, however, PSG continues to monitor its contracts to ensure that they fulfil client needs.

In the case of the contract for library services, I am satisfied that it does not

create an unfair imposition on librarians nor indeed on the numerous suppliers who responded to it. PSG consulted Commonwealth librarians about the contract and explained the impact of the new commission requirements to them. During the period from February to May 1990 five meetings were held. Those meetings were attended by 72 librarians. With the exception of one, PSG obtained the support of all those consulted before introducing the contract.

*P J Grills*

Assistant General Manager  
Purchasing Services

## Dear Editor,

As an active member of the School Section of ALIA I write to voice the concern of the Victorian Branch at the many and continuing mis-statements which appear regarding the review of *Books and beyond* and its current replacement.

It was as the result of the submission written by Victoria (acting as National Section) to the then Commonwealth Schools Commission that a grant was approved for the project. Since that time I believe that both the National Section and the various State Sections have been treated less than courteously.

ALIA School Section organised numerous meetings and visits for the consultants, inviting participation of SLAV. While we were aware of numerous communications passing between the Steering Committee and other parties we were not consulted for input or consultation. At no time did we receive the draft documents although we were aware of their existence and were able to examine them. Even now after release of the publication we have not received a copy.

Members of our Section, the majority of whom are also SLAV members, question why do we continue to be members of ALIA, to work hard for the promotion of the Association, to provide professional development opportunities for members when we are continually ignored by our Association.

There is little incentive for teacher-librarians to be members of the Association when for less than one third of the cost they can join SLAV and apparently enjoy equal, if not better, status from ALIA.

This is penned in direct response to Direct Line, Vol. 11 No. 7 (28 May) where it is stated that 'ALIA School Libraries Section will be contributing to a draft brief being developed by ASLA! Why? Are we wanted or not?'

*Pamela Taylor*

President  
School Libraries Section (Vic Group)