

Direct Line



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ALIA Executive Director

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THE ASSOCIATION'S General Council met for the first time in 1992 on 26-27 March in its national headquarters building, ALIA House. The General Council is the main policy making body for the Association, and consists of elected representatives from each state and territory, together with the President as its chairperson, the Vice-President, the Immediate Past President and the Chair of the Board of Education.

The General Council had a lengthy agenda to complete in the two days, covering many issues of importance to the management and future policies of the Association. It again operated in sub-committees for finance, membership and policy issues, with general matters being considered by the full Council. General Council was pleased with the way in which the sub-committees assist with the progress of business, and will continue to use this structure throughout 1992.

Income and expenditure are on target for the first quarter of 1992, while the preliminary financial result for 1991 shows that the Association achieved a small operating surplus in the first full year of operation of ALIA House.

The School Libraries Section National Group advised Council that it would be contributing \$1,650 to the production of a policy and guidelines document for school libraries. Consideration of sectional funding has again identified the importance of the Divisions in providing services to members, and this will be taken up in the strategic plan. The General Treasurer advised that work is continuing on the issue of divisional funding and accountability.

General Council noted the schedule for replacing the membership computer system, with implementation completed in time for the 1993 membership renewals. The review of institutional membership is continuing, and will include consideration of the services provided to institutional members. A paper on recruitment to the profession and a full review of *inCite* will be considered in July.

Approval was given for the Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities to change its name to the Disabilities Interest Group, while the Information Science Section, WA Group, was disbanded.

Fellowships were awarded to Earle Gow and Eric Wainwright, and the Redmond Barry Award was awarded to Don Lamberton.

Council endorsed a procedure for the development of library standards/guidelines for the Association, while also giving endorsement to the format for submissions to be made to General Council.

After three years of consultation, discussion and reports, the General Council decided not to support the application from the North Queensland Regional Group to form a Branch. It will further investigate the related issues of services to members outside capital cities and of funding to regional groups.

Council supported Association submissions being developed in response to the *Inquiry into Mail, Courier and Parcel Services*, to the Coalition's proposal for a *Goods and Services Tax*, and to the *Fightback!* package. A submission had been made to the Mayer Committee on key competencies, and this was endorsed.

Council noted that the Australian Booktrade Committee has decided to disband, and acknowledged the work of its two representatives on the Committee, Derek Whitehead and George Eichinski. Council also noted the continuing development by the International Relations Committee of its strategic plan, and endorsed the extension of the term of office for Committee members Barrie Mitcheson and Warren Horton to 1993, while John Levett is to be the President's representative for 1992.

The discussion paper on cross-sectoral use of libraries was deferred until July. A strategy for the Association's role in an alternative system of payments for interlibrary loans was agreed to, with General Council making a commitment to consult with the wider industry before supporting any changes to the current system of payments for inter-library loans.

Negotiations have been continuing with Arts Training, Australia and with the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition on the development of competencies for the library sector. Council gave its support to the Association working with both bodies on this project.

Approval was given to the TAFE Working Party to spend \$4000 on the development of a lobbying kit to promote funding for TAFE libraries in the recently announced Federal Government strategies for TAFE.

Support was given to the continuing work of the Strategic Plan Working Party to develop a strategic plan that included a mission statement, goals and objectives with consideration of strategies for 1993. The first draft should come back to the July meeting of Council.

General Council agreed in principle that the Association should provide administrative support, at cost, to the information industry professional association umbrella group, the Australian Information Technology Council, of which the Association is a founding member.

Considerable discussion occurred on the proposed NSW Library (Amendment) Bill, with Council supporting the spirit of the legislation to protect NSW public libraries from the potential introduction of widespread user charges. However, there were four areas of specific concern in the legislation which Council will be bringing to the attention of the NSW Parliament.

The President gave a preliminary report on the conference *Towards Federation 2001: Linking Australians and their Heritage*. General Council affirmed its commitment to promote the outcomes of the conference.