



Sue Kosse
ALIA Executive Director

After six years of meetings, discussions, consultations, petitions and thousands of dollars later, the Association's new constitution has been approved. The policy changes up to 1992 and the recommendations of the Corporate Plan and Review (1986) have finally been enshrined in both the Supplemental Royal Charter granted in 1988 and the approved revised By-Laws and Regulations.

The revised constitution will have an impact on many areas of operation for the Association. It changes the composition of the General Council, in which the offices of General Secretary and General Treasurer have been abolished and General Councillors are to be elected by members of the Branch. It reconstitutes the Board of Education, from the Board of Education and the Board of Examiners. It revises the By-laws and Regulations to ensure that key principles are embodied in the By-Laws, and that the Regulations cover the implementation of these By-Laws. The By-Laws and Regulations prescribing Library Technician Membership of the Association have also been included. The constitution has adopted non-sexist language throughout, to bring it into line with common usage.

The constitution has already been published in the Government Gazette, and each member will receive a copy fol-

lowing the production of the 1993 Handbook in the second quarter of 1993.

ALIA and ACLIS reach a new understanding

In November 1992, the Association's General Council and the ACLIS National Council reached agreement on a new basis for their future working relationship, in which ALIA is seen as the 'professional Association' and ACLIS the 'Industry Association' for the library and information services industry.

The text of the Joint Statement agreed to by the two Councils is as follows:

'That this joint meeting of ALIA and ACLIS note that the Strategic Plans of each differentiate the organisations respectively as a 'professional association' dealing with a full range of library and information service issues in the case of ALIA, and 'the national organisation' (of libraries and information services) dealing with access to information for all Australians in the case of ACLIS. It notes that the distinction in the respective statements of purpose lies in the concept of a 'professional association' on the one hand, and an 'industry association' on the other.'

'The meeting recognises that a crucial element in the success of each is to

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be clear to our members about the implications of this distinction, whilst acknowledging that the actual plans of action of each organisation will often converge on the same issues. It suggests that the implications of this distinction should be the basis for further debate and discussions about appropriate areas of focused activity for each, including acknowledged areas of joint or similar action. Further that in order to maximise impact and the effective use of resources overall in the achievement of agreed and common objectives, this meeting commends to the Councils of each body the desirability of formal and regular meetings to identify individual and jointly agreed priorities, and to identify those issues on which the two bodies might agree to differ.'

The implementation of this agreement will start early in 1993 through regular joint meetings of ALIA and ACLIS at the national level. We believe that, through this new agreement, the two Associations will be better able to utilise the support and commitment of individuals and institutions, intelligence gathered and resources available to the best advantage of our industry.

I look forward to being able to provide reports of positive achievements based upon this understanding in the near future. ■

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