

The way forward



**Jennefer
Nicholson**

Acting executive
director

jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au

With the motion before the Annual General Meeting on 17 August to initiate the voluntary wind-up of ALIA under the Royal Charter, one of the necessary steps to incorporate under *Corporations Law*, it is opportune to review the progress of the *Charter of Renewal*.

The membership voted earlier this year to retain the name Australian Library and Information Association for the new organisation [see box below]. The Association will be incorporated under this full name, and the name, the acronym ALIA, and our corporate logo will be registered for business purposes.

The vote for the four additional general councillors closed on 15 July — Ruth McIntyre, Janette Wright, Marion Boyd and Carolyn Young have been elected. Their term of office commences immediately and goes through until 31 December 2000, subject to any changes to governance structure eventuating from the incorporation. The new councillors will participate in a meeting of Council scheduled for 18 August to consider a report from the Renewal Working Group (RWG),

the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association and the motions carried at the AGM.

A consultation paper has been circulated widely to canvass views on key elements of the new corporate structure [see the July issue of *inCite*]. The RWG is meeting on 6 August to develop the comments received into a proposal for General Council. The decisions of Council will then be included in the draft Memorandum and Articles, as will any interim arrangements to facilitate changes in governance. The divisional structure sub-committee of the RWG is developing options for presentation to General Council prior to wider consultation.

The ALIA National Office will be working closely with our constitutional legal advisers, the liquidator and our auditors throughout the process of corporate restructure from ALIA under Royal Charter to ALIA as a company limited by guarantee under *Corporations Law*. This is a straightforward legal process involving a number of actions to be undertaken for the new entity, many of them simultaneously, such as: preparation of the Memorandum (objects) and Articles of Association in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC); their registration with ASIC; consolidation of current accounts and transfer of assets; requests for exemption of stamp-duty on transfer of assets; submission for income-tax exemption. We are advised by our lawyer that the achievement of tax-exempt status immediately following incorporation should be a formality in the sense that we are really dealing with a change in the nature of the incorporation process rather than the prevailing function or status of the Association. We will be arguing for a favourable consideration of stamp-duty exemption on the same basis. The final part of the process and following incorporation under *Corporations Law* will be the revocation of the Royal Charter.

GST

The legislation for the New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) has been passed by Parliament and will be operational on assent and proclamation. The ten per cent tax on the consumption of goods and services will be applicable from 1 July 2000. ALIA National Office staff have prepared a members' brief *'The GST and libraries — the bubbles, the salad and the cooked chook'*, available on ALIANet or from ALIA National Office.

Australian Library Week

General Council has agreed that the dates for Australian Library Week 2000 will be 15–21 May 2000, and in the year 2001 from 14–20 May.

The theme for ALW 2000 will be confirmed in August. ■

Results of two recent ballots arising from the *Charter of Renewal*

Two ballots of all members have recently been conducted, in accordance with the commitments made by the Association in adopting the *Charter of Renewal*.

Earlier this year a plebiscite was conducted to determine whether members supported a new name for the organisation. At the close of the ballot, there were 1465 valid votes, representing more than twenty five per cent of the possible membership eligible to vote at the date of the plebiscite. Eighty one per cent (1188) voted in favour of maintaining the name ALIA and nineteen per cent (275) voted in favour of choosing a new name. More than twenty per cent of eligible members voted to maintain the name, whilst just under five per cent voted to choose a new name. This indicates that the Association's members have a clear preference for maintaining the existing name.

Clause 1 of the *Charter of Renewal* required the creation of four new positions on General Council: two to be filled by institutional members and two to be filled by personal members. Following necessary changes to the Constitution, a ballot of all members of the Association was conducted in June and July. A generous field of candidates contested the election, presenting a wide choice. Results of the ballot were declared by the acting executive director on 16 July 1999. We offer congratulations to the two successful institutional members: Ruth McIntyre of the Kondinin Group and Janette Wright of Library and Community Services at Waverley Council; and to the two successful personal members: Marion Boyd and Carolyn Young. Following a decision by General Council, these new general councillors will take office immediately and their terms of office will conclude on 31 December 2000.