## Digital Agenda bill available for public comment

he Attorney General Daryl Williams and Senator Richard Alston, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts jointly released the draft Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill on 26 February for public comment. The exposure draft implements Australia's international treaty obligations under the World Intellectual Property Organisation's (WIPO) Copyright Treaty and Performances and Phonograms Treaty. The Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill was foreshadowed in the Government's decision in April 1998 to

update Australia's copyright regulatory framework to respond to new communication technology such as the internet. The *Copyright Amendment* (*Digital Agenda*) *Bill* has been released as an exposure draft for public comment. The closing date for submissions was 19 March 1999.

Australian Digital Alliance launched The ADA is a newly-formed coalition of copyright consumers and owners with a common interest in promoting balanced copyright protection. Membership of the ADA includes schools,

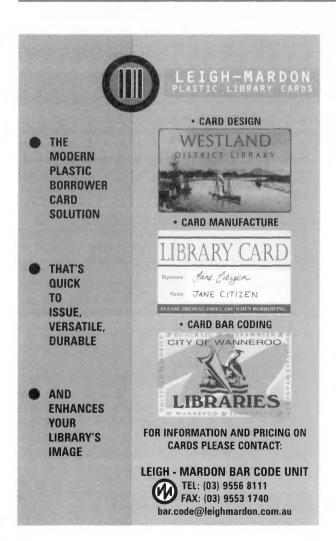
universities, internet industry groups, consumer groups, cultural institutions, computer companies, libraries, scientific and research organisations and individuals. Sir Anthony Mason is the ADA's patron and ALIA is a founding member.

The Alliance was launched on 26 February 1999. Key speakers at the launch included Professor Dennis Pearce (former chair of the CLRC), Mara Bun (policy and public affairs manager, Australian Consumer Association), and Stephen Hepstonall (secretary, Supporters of Interoperable Systems Association).

Following the launch, a working meeting for ADA members was held to discuss the coalition's governance and its response to copyright law reform activity including the *Copyright Amendment* (*Digital Agenda*) *Bill 1999*.

## **ALCC** response

In the next 'Copyright update' (May issue of inCite) we will feature a summary of the key provisions of the Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999 and the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee's (ALCC) response to the Bill. The full text of the ALCC's response will also be available on ALIAnet.



## ATSIROM

is now ONLINE

ATSIROM, a compilation of twelve databases relating to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, is now available via both *Informit Ondisc* and *Informit Online*.

ATSIROM comprehensively covers all aspects of issues relating to Australia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, including land rights, native title, stolen generation, history and culture, housing, health, education and more.

## New Database!

As of February 1999 the *AIATSIS Bibliography* from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies is available on ATSI*ROM* CD-ROM and Online.

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Individual databases available separately.

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