

# Report on the July Board of Directors meeting

The July ALIA Board of Directors meeting focussed on developing a twelve month action plan based on the Objects of the Association and the recommendations of the National Policy Congress (NPC) on divisional structure, accreditation of institutions, and the future of ALIA conferences [see <http://www.alia.org.au/npc/2000/recommendations/index.html>]. The plan will be reviewed at each meeting.

## Divisional structure

No doubt the most significant recommendations of the NPC are to do with changing the current divisional structure to one based on self-nominating groups around areas of interest and issues based fora. Craig Anderson and Christine Richardson are preparing draft criteria and guidelines for the operation and funding of groups for further development during and following the September Board meeting. These will be circulated on the NPC e-list prior to the meeting. The Board has not as yet firmed up the date for implementation of the new structure, however, if it can be achieved logistically new groups could form from 1 January 2001 and the current structure cease as of 30 June 2001. It is proposed that the endorsed criteria and guidelines will be trialed for one year, and the new structure monitored and reviewed.

The recommendation for the provision of effective, well-defined local presence requires further investigation

and clarification. How local presence operates in the future will depend to a large extent on the group structure which evolves and the resources available for support. The Board is seeking input from the current local presence officers and an interest group of the NPC for consideration at the November meeting.

## Accreditation of institutions

As health section members have experience of institutional accreditation, the Board has invited the section to provide a proposal to the November meeting on the rationale for an outcome-focussed accreditation system and outline of a methodology for how this may operate and be applicable across the library and information sector.

## Conferences

The Association has had the same model for its conferences for some time. Though our conferences continue to be successful both financially and professionally there has been debate for some time over whether the current model is the best one.

The Board believes it is timely to seek industry advice. It will engage a consultant to evaluate our needs, identify the different models for conferences and report to the November meeting on how we should proceed.

## Membership

A suite of membership matters was identified for detailed consideration at the September meeting. Strategies are

being developed to raise our member retention rate above the current eighty-seven per cent, and to increase our member recruitment numbers. ALIA National Office staff are examining the reasons why individuals join, continue their membership, leave, or decide not to join; different models for the membership fee structure; the institutional membership package; membership categories; and the range of member services.

The Board also resolved to trial a direct debit payment option for membership fees to new members. The trial will be monitored for member take-up and receptiveness, as well as administrative needs. The payment system will be reviewed prior to the next membership renewal with a view to offering it to all members.

## Financial year

The NPC recommended that the operational year be changed to the July-June period as is the membership period. The Board did not consider that this was necessary or desirable, and does not warrant meeting the requirements for changes to the *Constitution* by special resolution, the agreement of ASIC, and the increase in costs for audit at that peak time.

## CPD

The Board is investigating the potential for strengthening our professional development and training program. A consultant will be commissioned to report to the November meeting on an analysis of the market and needs, and opportunities for the Association supported by a business plan.

## Australian Library Week and promotion of the profession

From 2001 the name will change to Australian Library and Information Week (ALIW). Alan Bundy will join the ALIW committee and work with them on broadening the range of promotion and lobbying activities linked to ALIW. The Oration will be discontinued.

At its November meeting, the Board will also be reviewing the current and future requirements for:

- policy statements;
- the awards program;
- the Association's IT infrastructure and services;
- committees; and
- research and policy development. ■

## Public libraries for the 21st century

The Victorian Minister for Local Government, Mr Bob Cameron, has launched a \$12 million Public Library Infrastructure Grants program to ensure that Victorian libraries are equipped for the 21st century.

Funding for the program will be made available through the Community Support Fund and will renew Victoria's public library infrastructure over the next three years.

The Public Library Infrastructure Grants program will be man-

aged and administered by the Local Government Division of the Department of Infrastructure, Victorian councils are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$500 000 for the construction of replacement buildings, extensions, renovations or refurbishments of existing library buildings on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The program complements the \$376 000 Special Projects Grants for Rural Libraries recently announced to improve library resources in regional and rural communities. ■