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Advocacy and lobbying framework

The Board identified key policy issues on which the Association will focus over the next twelve months and throughout the (various) election period. The main issue is public access to information and includes the Internet and the role of libraries and information services, review of the digital agenda amendments to the Copyright Act, and review of the Broadcasting Services Act on-line content regulation amendments and take up of the amendments in state and territory legislation. The Board recognizes the importance of securing joint commitment from federal and state, and for public libraries local, governments to public access to information through libraries and information services, and the role of the bureaucracy in achieving successful outcomes for our sector. The outcomes and mechanisms within the framework reflect this.

One initiative being developed by the Board is a full day session later this year in New Parliament House for members and senators and staff, and departmental advisers, to showcase library and information services and the value of library and information professionals.

Craig Grimison, Helen Roberts, Moyra McAllister, Matthew Rimmer and Roslynn Membrey have been appointed to our Copyright and Intellectual Property advisory committee. In anticipation of the review of the copyright digital agenda amendments and as a matter of priority the committee will put in place a mechanism to gather the necessary evidence to support the retention of copyright exemptions on transactions in library and information services in for profit organisations.

Strategic partnerships

The Board of Directors adopted the recommendation of the ALIA, Records Management Association of Australia, and Australian Society of Archivists strategic planning meeting (see May Directline) to establish a joint ALIA/RMAA/ASA policy committee on education and professional development.

Group restructure

The Board of Directors endorsed all 63 group submissions received before the Board meeting. The Board commends all those involved in preparing a group submission for your interest in, support for and contribution to the work of the Association.

A huge amount of information about the scope and extent of the

activities of the groups and their contribution to the Association's achievements has been provided through the submissions and for the first time is available to the Association's governing body and the wider membership and can now be promoted through *inCite*, ALIANet and aliaNEWS as well as group newsletters.

The Board is proposing to hold the next National Policy Congress here in Canberra in early December with a representative from each group attending. Delegates will be asked to develop guidelines and criteria for group funding from 2002 or 2003 for newsletters, subsidies for those in remote locations to attend regional meetings, support for activities in remote locations, group members to attend ALIA and other conferences, group conferences and projects. The Board will also seek advice from delegates on the location of group awards within the Association's draft awards framework proposed for implementation in 2002, the role of regional leaders/representatives, development of the endorsement submission form and process, and any other matters relating to groups which may arise.

Membership renewals will be going out in two weeks and will include the new group brochure and 'tick the box' for group membership. Between now and July Vital Link and the divisions components of ALIANet will be rebuilt. The Board endorsed a new by law for the group structure to come into effect from 1 July 2001.

Membership fees and benefits

The current membership renewal will be based on the new membership fee structure developed by the Board. The Board endorsed a number of affinity benefit programs.

Associate fellow

The Board endorsed the following criteria for admission to the new self-nominating Associate Fellow category and the necessary amendments to the membership by law.

1. demonstration of professional/technical and personal knowledge and skills;
2. evidence of significant degree of autonomy in decision-making in practice;
3. minimum five year Associate or Library Technician membership;
4. continuity of participation in CPD compliance for at least previous five years*;
5. current employment in Australian library and information sector or allied sector;
6. reports from three referees addressing required elements.

Eligibility to remain in the Associate Fellow category is dependent on maintaining CPD compliance.

*The CPD program commenced in 2000. So that a member can be eligible for admission to the Associate Fellow category before 1 July 2006 the Board can admit those members who meet all other criteria and who have maintained continuous compliance with the CPD program for at least three years.

International Relations Committee nominations

ALIA is seeking expressions of interest from members who would like to be appointed to our International Relations committee. Up to four positions are to be filled, for a one or two year term. The committee meets electronically and face-to-face as needed. Please send your CV and 100 words on how you can contribute to the committee's brief:

1. To provide advice and guidelines on international policies, programs and activities;
2. To advise on international relationships and representation;
3. To develop priorities and identify resources for programs and activities in Asia-Pacific; and
4. To initiate advice to government and other bodies on matters of international concern to the library and information sector.

to the executive director (jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au or fax 0262822249) by June 18. Appointments to the committee will be decided at the Board of Directors meeting on 22 June 2001. ■