

Spirit of co-operation

ALIA/ASLA Policy Advisory Group

The ALIA/ASLA Policy Advisory Group was formed to advise the ALIA Board of Directors and the ASLA Federal Council on the following issues:

- submissions to governments and other bodies on matters relating to library and information practice within the school community. Submissions may be in response to a call for submissions or at the instigation of ALIA/ASLA for lobbying or advocacy purposes;
- the development of policy statements or documents relating to library and information practice within the school community;
- policy and practice matters of interest and concern to members. Such matters may be referred from or to the ALIA/ASLA governing bodies;
- representation on appropriate bodies;
- other matters as determined by the ALIA Board of Directors and the ASLA Federal Council;
- mechanisms for collecting statistical data and research information on the sector.

The group comprises two members from ALIA — Anne Girolami (convenor), and Sandra Ryan and two members from ASLA — Jill Ball and Pru Mitchell. The group's tenure is for period of two years. As the members this committee are based in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales meetings are held monthly via teleconference and correspondence is dealt with electronically.

So far this year the group has met on a monthly basis since February. The meetings in February, June and July were held jointly with the ALIA/ASLA Issues Taskforce. The first meeting set the parameters of the groups in an atmosphere of collegiality. The second meeting discussed the LISEKA project and feedback was provided to the ALIA Board of Directors. The first meeting in July primarily discussed the *ALIA Core knowledge, skills and attitudes statement* and looked at the how the role of the teacher

librarian and the school library was placed within this core document. This feedback was then forwarded to the ALIA Board of Directors. The second meeting in July discussed the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committees *Inquiry into the role of libraries in the online environment* and again our feedback was forwarded to ALIA within the required timeframe.

The first two priorities that the group selected to work on were:

- ALIA/ASLA joint statement on teacher librarians.
- ALIA/ASLA joint statement on library and information services in schools.

The first statement was devised and refined over the course of five months and after much deliberation the document was ready for ratification. It has been forwarded to the ALIA Board of Directors and ASLA Executive Council. The group awaits their feedback.

Work began on the second statement, however discussions were put on hold when the LISEKA project was announced. The group decided that the LISEKA feedback was needed first as this would influence the content of the statement.

Further activities of the group include identifying appropriate and relevant bodies that could be targeted to promote the role of the teacher librarian and to canvas the main issues that school libraries face. As well, the group is looking at a common, regular collection of statistical data of school libraries Australia-wide. Both these issues require further work.

The group continues to work enthusiastically in a methodical manner through its priorities and in a spirit of co-operation.

Anne Girolami, convenor, ALIA/ASLA Policy Advisory Group

ALIA TAFE NSW Group report

The ALIA TAFE NSW group committee has worked well to achieve successful outcomes for the activities that we have undertaken in 2002. The committee looks forward to an interesting and rewarding year in 2003.

Feedback from the ALIA TAFE conference held in Brisbane in 2001 highlighted the importance of information literacy. This led to a lot of interest from TAFE library staff in New South Wales for our seminar, *Information literacy — now and beyond*. This full-day seminar was held at the Open Training and Education

Network, Strathfield on 21 June 2002. Topics covered information on current practice and the hands-on approach from specific sites, (both within and outside TAFE) and beyond — the thought provoking next step addressed by Maureen Henninger

Our group had a representative at the regional National Policy Congress meeting at the Goethe-Institute Inter Nationes at Woollahra on 28 September. Representatives discussed the *ALIA — Making the difference: 2003 and 2004 plan* and the information agenda. The discussions highlighted the need for an ALIA business plan

and a stronger emphasis on membership.

Our second seminar *Copyright IT, Manage IT Use IT!* was also greeted enthusiastically by many TAFE library staff. It was held on 8 November 2002 at the Open Training and Education Network, Strathfield.

Possible activities planned for next year include further seminars, a membership drive and participation in the decisions being made on the ALIA national front.

Jennifer Huthnance, convenor, ALIA TAFE NSW Group