

ALIA's response about Library Board of WA

The ALIA Board of Directors considered this matter at its recent board meeting and provided a response to the proposed change to the membership of the Board and in particular with reference to the proposed deletion of the position nominated by ALIA.

There is support in principle for the proposed change as it is acknowledged that in order for Boards to be effective a mix of skills is required.

ALIA Board



NT Library Wins Prestigious Gates Foundation Award



ALIA warmly congratulates the Northern Territory Library for winning the prestigious annual Gates Foundation Access to Learning Award. The award was presented to Jo McGill, Director, Northern Territory Library (NTL) at the IFLA 2007 World Library and Information Congress in Durban, South Africa. The Australian contingent at IFLA (which includes ALIA President, Roxanne Missingham, Board members Damian Lodge and Helen Partridge, and ALIA Executive Director, Sue Hutley) was justifiably very proud of the NTL's fantastic achievement.

The US\$1 million award recognises the library's work to provide free computer and Internet access and training to Indigenous communities and for its unique 'Our Story' database. It assists people to retain 60,000 years of oral tradition, and plays a part in helping our Indigenous communities to

survive and prosper through improved literacy skills and access to information.

'Our Story' is a digital archive aimed at creating cultural continuity between past and present for the Territory's indigenous peoples, and facilitates the continued expression of complex oral, musical, dance and visual cultures. It uses lightweight digital technology to gather, renew and provide online access to stories that are retold and re-learned in diverse forms.

The award's funding will be used to spread training in 'Our Story' to more communities, and expand the library's early years literacy program for Indigenous children.

For more information, see the Northern Territory Library's website at <<http://www.ntl.nt.gov.au/>> and the Gates Foundation at <<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/ATLA>>.

National Advisory Congress (NAC) – Regional & Rural Members

Calling all Regional & Rural ALIA members! Would you like to attend an NAC meeting, but can't because of the distance? Then you'll be pleased that this year's series of NACs includes a teleconference just for you. Don't miss your chance to contribute to the direction of the Association.

The Regional & Rural NAC will be held via teleconference on 18 September from 6.00 pm (EST). You can RSVP your attendance by contacting Robyn Ellard, Assistant Director: Member Services on **1800 020 071** or emailing <robyn.ellard@alia.org.au>.

For further information visit <<http://alia.org.au/governance/nac/>>.

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