

ALIA Public Libraries Summit – Senator Ursula Stephens to open



News just in. Senator the Hon. Ursula Stephens (<http://www.aph.gov.au/SEnate/senators/homepages/senators.asp?id=00AOS>) has agreed to open the ALIA Public Libraries Summit on Thursday 26 March at the National Library of Australia.

Dr Stephens is Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector and Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion.

With the focus of the ALIA Public Libraries Summit on the potential of the vast public library network to champion social inclusion and community benefit, especially in disadvantaged and remote areas, Senator Stephens is a most appropriate person to make the opening address.

Prior to entering Parliament, Dr Stephens was an educator for 20 years, teaching in primary and secondary schools and at TAFE. This included living and teaching in the Northern Territory for two years. Following her teaching career, Dr Stephens ran her own executive development and training business for five years and, following this, joined the NSW Premier's Department, working on strategic projects.

Dr Stephens has been Chair of the Rural Communities Consultative Council, a member of the NSW Rural Assistance Authority, a member of the NSW Board of Vocational Education and Training and Deputy Chair of the NSW Women's Advisory Council.

Dr Stephens has a PhD in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Education.

The ALIA Public Libraries Summit will bring together around 50 library and non-library participants including government Ministers or their representatives, local government representatives, partners or allies from the non-profit sector, key cultural/ethnic/racial groups and public library stakeholders. Participants will be invited to attend.

Invitation to contribute – working papers

In addition to those participating in the Summit, all interested people and groups are invited to submit working papers on how to achieve the two key objectives of the Summit – public libraries as national champions and a national framework for Australia's public libraries.

They will be distributed to all Summit participants to consider.

Working papers may be as short as you wish, but preferably no longer than five pages. Papers must be submitted by Friday, 27 February 2009.

For further information about the Summit, visit <http://www.alia.org.au/summit09/> or contact Marion Nicolson, Project Officer, ALIA Public Libraries Summit 2009 at marion.nicolson@alia.org.au

Summer Reading Club

1 December 2008 – 15 February 2009

Get in the game, READ!

The official Summer Reading Club program is now off and racing! So Get in the game, READ! for the main event this summer!

The Summer Reading Club program encourages young people of all ages in reading, writing, sharing books and other fun and engaging literature based activities over the summer period.

Get in the game, READ, has been a slam dunk success this year and there is still time to get involved: visit the official website at <http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au>. Whatever your sporting focus, the Summer Reading Club program 2009 will be a winner!

ALIA would like to thank ANZ as the official Summer Reading Club 2009 sponsor.



At ANZ Balgowlah,
we're happy to
support the ALIA
Summer Reading
Club Program.

ANZ is investing in community initiatives that aim to make a significant and lasting difference. Our support of the ALIA Summer Reading Club Program is one of the ways we are supporting the community in the Manly district.

To find out more about the difference ANZ is making in communities around Australia visit www.anzcommunitynow.com.



Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) ABN 11 005 357 522.
ANZ's colour blue is a trade mark of ANZ. ANZ023211