

# THE CONFERENCE EQUATION



It's a delight to be writing for INCITE in my new role as President, and I am very much looking forward to our many interactions over the year ahead. Your Board knows that ALIA will only become better and stronger if we listen to what Members want and need, and then work hard to deliver services and skills to support the wider industry.

If you take the time to get to know me this year, you'll quickly discover that I'm an extrovert and am always keen to expand my knowledge, networks and storytelling experiences, so conferences make sense to me. But I know that not everyone approaches conferences with the same sense of anticipation as I do, and many close friends at the other end of the personality spectrum think of them as hard work and expensive.

*Maybe some calculations will help you to decide:*

<b>ALIA National 2016 Conference</b>	
Members-Only saving	\$380
4 lunches and tea breaks	\$100
2 drinks and networking opportunities	\$25
1 Harvest Dinner (the best of South Australian food and wine)	\$120
Ongoing Career Assessment and Consultation	\$95
Learning from International Librarians (Singapore and NZ this year)	\$60
Adelaide Hills trip, or tasting and library tour	\$65
4 jam-packed days of professional development	\$280
Free books, pens, notepads and general fun stuff to supplement the stationery drawer	\$25
<b>Conference Early-Bird Registration total:</b>	<b>\$1150</b>

There are, of course, accommodation and travel costs to factor in as well, but there are so many flexible options (drive, fly, bus, share house, YWCA, Airbnb) that can make the conference a much more affordable prospect than you might have originally thought.

So consider the value of attending the 2016 Conference, where you will engage with educators, practitioners, Board members, ALIA staff and your colleagues and make it one of the best conferences yet for discussion, action and creating leadership in our sector. Go to [nationalconference.alia.org.au](http://nationalconference.alia.org.au) for more information.

Your new Board members will be as accessible as possible during the Conference. If you look at the newsletter messages after each Board meeting, you'll also get an insight into decisions and discussions, all of which are firmly embedded in the ALIA Strategic Plan 2016–2020 (see [bit.ly/1TxEiyT](http://bit.ly/1TxEiyT)).

In the year ahead we have many challenges as we implement new PD initiatives, take care of the ageing ALIA House building for the future, share campaigns with partners in book, education and copyright arenas, and advocate always for technical and practical access to library services for everyone throughout Australia.

I'd also like to thank all the applicants for Board positions this year; you are such an impressive collection of interested and informed ALIA people. If you didn't manage to break through for 2016, do please nominate again.

See you in Adelaide, if not before! 🍷



PATRICIA GENAT, AALIA (CP)  
ALIA President