

ADVOCACY PAYS OFF

In this issue of INCITE you will find great examples of professional development opportunities and how they have helped our Members hone their existing skills and develop new ones.

The notion of 'together we are stronger' has been proven multiple times over the last 12 months, but from an advocacy perspective, there is no better example than the introduction of the Copyright Amendment Bill in Parliament in March. We are now within a whisker of it becoming law.

This momentous change will introduce new disability access fair dealing, address preservation copying, bring copyright terms for published and unpublished works into line, and reduce the complexity of educational licences. It has been achieved through the long-term lobbying of the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and through the efforts of ALIA Members who participated in the Cooking for Copyright campaign in 2015, which brought these issues before the public eye.

ALIA Members can feel confident, not only that their voice has been heard but also that their efforts may result in a very real and positive change to the law.

And it's not only in Australia that ALIA Members are making an impact. We were pleased to host a meeting of library leaders at ALIA House in March to discuss how Australian LIS professionals engage with colleagues overseas and support those from less advantaged nations around our region. Our incoming President, Vicki McDonald, is making international relations the theme of her presidency and we can expect more discussions about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of ALIA in the region in the lead-up to the Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference on the Gold Coast in July 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to our departing President, Patricia Genat, and Directors Fiona Emberton and Ghylene Palmer. Patricia has been a tremendous advocate for the Association, travelling all around the country during her presidential year, meeting Members and spreading the word about libraries to a wide range of stakeholders.

The ALIA House team has been very grateful for her support and for that of the entire Board. ✨



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Education for 21st century libraries

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