

# COMMIT TO PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**A**LIA President **LYNDALL LEY** urges all library and information professionals to commit to their personal professional development as a regular part of life.

Libraries have been champions and providers of lifelong learning throughout their history. They support and enhance the learning journey we begin in our first years and continue throughout our lives. As individuals, we all have responsibility for that journey, but libraries of all types can, and do, provide essential resources and services to help along the way. As professionals we also need to take personal responsibility for our learning, and while our workplaces, and ALIA, can provide support and resources, we also must step up and make the decision to invest in and manage our own careers.

ALIA makes this easy for us with the provision of an extensive professional development framework through the PD Scheme. There is significant value in becoming a Certified Professional and adding those all-important letters (CP) after your name. After just one year of ALIA PD Scheme compliance you will be recognised as a Certified Professional and earn the post nominals. This demonstrates to everyone your commitment to lifelong learning and is an important signal to employers of your willingness to invest time and effort into your career development. As well as the many courses on offer, you can read about LIS research in a wide variety of publications, participate in communities of practice, attend ALIA professional development events and ALIA conferences, all of which offer creative and cost-effective ways of enhancing your knowledge.

It was wonderful to catch up with so many of you on the Gold Coast and I would like to thank everyone involved in bringing the Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference (APLIC) to the Gold Coast, especially the organising committee, volunteers, industry partners and ALIA staff. This was an excellent conference, full of opportunities for professionals at all levels to begin, consolidate or enhance their learning journey about a wide range of topics of interest to the library and information profession. I congratulate those who took responsibility for their own lifelong learning and either attended or caught up with some of the amazing

workshops, keynotes and other sessions. #APLIC18 provided an outstanding meeting point for all library and information professionals from all sectors and all areas of Australia and the international community.

On another note, congratulations to new ALIA Fellow Dr Suzanne Lewis. The ALIA Board of Directors was delighted to confer the distinction of Fellow on Dr Lewis, with special consideration for her work in the field of health librarianship, as a strategic thinker, advocate, mentor, project leader, researcher, author, speaker and academic. Suzanne has made a significant contribution to the Association and to the library and information profession through her work in health libraries.

Finally, I would like to once again draw your attention to ALIA's support for the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. The ALIA Directors were very pleased to state their support for the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* which clearly aligns with the Association's objects and values, and, if adopted, would provide an important first step to constitutional recognition and a reconciliation pathway for Australia's First Nations' peoples. 🇺🇸



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