



Australian  
Library and  
Information  
Association

# ALIA NAC Regional Reports 2007

**Regional & Rural NAC teleconference  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**This teleconference is available as a recording at  
<http://www.alia.org.au/governance/nac/2007/>**

## **1. Attendance:**

Val Hooper, Tania Barry, Margaret Zeegers, Edith Hackworthy, Derek Whitehead (Director) and Robyn Ellard (Assistant Director: Member Services)

**Apologies:** Richard Pickup, Deidre Lowe,

**Selected representative to attend the national meeting of the NAC**  
(they must be an ALIA member)

Name: **Tania Barry**

ALIA membership no: **047842**

## **2. NAC Report**

Comments were invited about the ALIA goals for 2008

- The new goal of Research Culture is considered very important
- 1<sup>st</sup> Goal of Membership Growth generated some discussion, including:
  - Reaching out to like-minded community groups
  - Improve communicating what the Association does so that members may see some gaps which they can suggest improvements (Derek & Robyn spoke about the initiative in 2008 *inCite* to have a column called "Your Association at Work" which will hopefully fill this communication need)
  - Target employers and have them encourage their staff to join ALIA.
  - Employers aren't seeing the value in ALIA – ALIA needs to demonstrate this value better. Also suggested that ALIA send out a letter of commendation to the employer for staff that work hard (volunteer) for ALIA.
  - Derek and Robyn raised the focus of ALIA on a member satisfaction survey later this year
- The education summit for 2008 was highlighted by Derek and considered a good move for ALIA by members

## **3. Major Issues – Providing leadership in professional education and workforce planning**

(Members commented on the discussion points as a whole)

- Review pay scales - NSW pay case as an example.  
Discussion reviewed the many different employers involved in employing in the LIS industry and the suggested Salary Scales ALIA

has. One member suggested ALIA organize a sub-committee to review pay and lobby the government.

We need to provide salaries comparable to other professions and stop the practice of under-employing library staff.

- Concern about the lowering or removal of professional levels for library staff eg library professionals being classed (and paid) as a general staff member of an organisation rather than a professional level. This leads to the attitude that you don't need to be qualified to work at a professional level.

We need to speak out when library qualifications are not required for library positions.

- Participate in careers fairs and promote the industry to Careers Teachers for promotion in secondary school. Discussion involved the Careers Working Party project supported by ALIA.
- Develop a campaign about what a librarian is and what we do. We need to educate the general population. Get a librarian onto TV in programs such as "First Tuesday Book Club" and morning shows. Work on improving the image of the profession to general people.
- Explore mentoring to assist new grads and to help with the skills shortage in the future

#### **Discussed characteristics of a library worker:**

- People person & customer focused
- Knowledge workers
- Organized
- Learning / educating / training
- Technologically savvy

#### **4. ALIA Initiatives for 2008**

Boardroom Bound

- Derek explained the reasons for Boardroom Bound

Review of advisory committees and representatives

- Derek gave some background to the review of Advisory Committees

Technology: what members want from ALIA

- Members were generally happy with what ALIA could provide currently and looked forward to more web 2.0 resources

#### **5. Local issues**

QLD council amalgamations were discussed. It was decided that another QLD Director would be asked to discuss this with QLD members later

#### **6. Evaluation**

Generally the members valued the meeting as an excellent opportunity to discuss important issues ALIA and other members. Some were disappointed the meeting was not better attended, but another member commented that the fewer members meant more opportunities to speak. One participant noted the meeting made her feel that the "*process is a valuable and easy way for ordinary members to have input*".

#### **7. Any other comments from the meeting?**

It was great to have a meeting via teleconference for those unable to attend