

ALIA Schools Special Interest Group Terms of Reference

ALIA Schools aims to facilitate networking on a national level, support professional development and resources, and advocate within the Library and Information sector with a focus on schools and education.

Purpose

The ALIA School Special Interest Group is formed to represent, inform advocacy and create awareness on behalf of school libraries and school library personnel across national and state bodies in the library and information sector. School library personnel may comprise teacher librarians, librarians, library technicians, library assistants and other library related professionals.

Focus

Key areas of focus:

- Inform advocacy through ALIA and ACSL for the school library sector through responding to initiatives and preparing submissions that benefit school libraries and successful student learning.
- Keep abreast of trends within the education and librarianship landscapes as they pertain to school libraries.
- Share information on research and best-practice.
- Build partnerships and working relationships with other school library associations, government bodies and other educational related groups to advocate for the school library sector and personnel.
- Develop and facilitate quality professional development to the school library community regardless of ALIA membership. Professional Development is guided by current trends and participant feedback.
- Create and review relevant documentation and resources that support the delivery of best practice in school libraries.
- Participate in working parties that inform resources, and efficient and effective school library services and programs.

Background

School Libraries have been a focus of ALIA, with the first group starting in 1967. This group is now known as ALIA Schools Special Interest Group (SIG).

This longstanding group has focused on advocating to improve equitable access to school library services for all Australian students. It has commissioned and championed reports that have provided impetus for subsequent government action.

A timeline to the first 50 years of the group can be accessed [here](#).

Commitment to sustainability and leadership development

ALIA Schools SIG is committed to leadership development and sustainability of the group. Small working parties/sub committees are formed for designated projects enabling leadership opportunities through the year, harnessing committee members' interests and professional strengths.

It is envisioned that key positions of leadership will be rotated to enable new visions, fresh approaches, and continuity of the group. We encourage transition of leadership every three years, or at the AGM as positions become available.

The group comprises of a core group of office bearers, supported by committee members.

The Core Committee has the following office holders:

Convenor
Secretary
Treasurer
Professional Development Coordinator
Social Media Coordinator
Minutes Secretary
Website manager
Engagement Coordinator

Membership

The ALIA Schools SIG welcomes anyone eligible for ALIA membership (general member, student or information professional) who has an interest in the role school libraries play in the broader librarian and educational landscape.

Anyone, regardless of ALIA membership can sign up to receive updates about ALIA Schools activities here.

Relationships

The Group will work collaboratively with ALIA National Office and other ALIA Committees and Groups. The following Associations are of particular relevance:

- Australian Coalition of School Libraries (ACSL)
- Australian School Library Association (ASLA)
- State based School Library Associations

Responsibilities

The Core Committee is responsible for following the guidelines in the Group's Handbook.

Meetings:

The ALIA Schools SIG meets ten (10) times throughout the school year. Meetings are held online to enable National participation.

Changes to the terms of reference

The terms of reference may be revised every two years, or as required by the Executive Committee in consultation with Group members and submitted to the ALIA CEO for approval.

Version history

November 2023