



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Monday 7 December 2020

Via Zoom

Present

Viv Barton (President)

Vicki Edmunds (Vice-President)

Stefanie Gaspari

Kim Sherwin

Clare Thorpe

Emily Wilson

Meeting summary

Discussion at the final meeting of the ALIA Board for 2020 canvassed a broad range of topics including:

1. Strategic plan

Board members were pleased to endorse a new ALIA Strategic plan that incorporates four strategic priorities:

- Supporting a resilient, diverse workforce
- Developing alliances and collaborative ventures
- Succeeding through advocacy
- Enhancing Member value.


The Strategic plan will be available on the ALIA website early in 2021.

2. Professional Pathways

An update on the [Professional Pathways](#) initiative to strengthen the library and information science profession and help create a future-ready workforce was received. A consultation draft was released on 30 November that outlines the key pillars of the initiative.

Professional Pathways will:

- Recognise the skills and experience of LIS Professionals and incentivise continuous learning through the professional certification process.
- Create pathways for people with non-LIS academic qualifications to seek LIS professional status through knowledge, skills and experience, according to new industry-developed professional frameworks.
- Create an ALIA accredited Library Certificate at TAFE Certificate level for people working at the entry level in libraries with no formal qualifications.
- Work with the university and TAFE sector to strengthen the position of our existing LIS courses through industry investment in student places and research.



The Directors look forward to attending a number of Town Hall meetings in the coming months to discuss the plan with ALIA Members.

3. Relief Fund

The Board reviewed the operation of the [ALIA COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) that was established to support ALIA Members facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donations to the Fund have been received from a number of generous ALIA Members and an additional amount of \$10,000 of operating funds was set aside by the ALIA Board to contribute to the Relief Fund. As this latter sum is unlikely to be needed in full to assist people in immediate financial hardship, the ALIA Board has agreed to provide \$4,000-worth of grants through the ALIA COVID-19 Relief fund for ten ALIA Members to attend the upcoming [ALIA Information Online 2021 conference](#).

Details on how to apply for the grant are available on the [conference website](#).

4. Advisory Committee appointments

Appointments to three ALIA Advisory Committees were approved by the Board:

- Robert Knight OAM, [Book Industry and E lending Advisory Committee](#)
- Alison Wiercinski as Chair and Amanda Magnussen as a member, [Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee](#)
- Claire Stalker-Booth, [Vocational Education and Training Libraries Advisory Committee](#)

The Board also confirmed the reappointment of Ebe Kartus and Melissa Parent, two members of the [ALIA Community on Resource Description Advisory Committee](#) (ACORD), as representatives on the [Oceania RDA Committee](#) (ORDAC).

The Board thanked these Members for their willingness to participate in the work of ALIA, providing input into the strategic decisions made by the Board.

5. Advisory Committee reports

The Board acknowledged the significant projects undertaken by the ALIA Advisory Committees and particularly thanked them for the recently completed projects including:

- [ALIA Education Advisory Committee](#), finalising a new core skills policy titled *Foundation knowledge and competencies for entry-level library and information professionals*.
- [ALIA School Library Advisory Committee](#) in conjunction with ASLA updating the *Recommended minimum information services staffing levels*. The guidelines provide a revision to Table 6 in the 2nd edition of *Learning for the future: developing information services in schools*.



6. Awards

The Board was pleased to congratulate the recipients of the 2020 ALIA Health Libraries Australia [Anne Harrison Award](#). Raechel Damarell, Dr Suzanne Lewis and Professor Jennifer Tieman will conduct a study to consider '*Improving the development and reporting of search filters: An e-Delphi study of international experts in the field*'.

7. ALIA Conferences

The Board received an update on plans for two major ALIA conferences to be held in the first quarter of 2021. Given the current uncertainty surrounding travel and hosting public meetings, the conferences will be hosted as virtual events:

- The work of the [ALIA Information Online Conference Program Committee](#) in quickly reimagining the conference as a virtual event was acknowledged by the Board. The Board noted the release of the program and the range of registration options along with the innovative virtual exhibition that will be offered. The conference will be held on 8 February 2021 as a one-day online program.
- Nominations for the [Library Design Awards](#) have closed with an impressive 33 entries. The awards will be presented in conjunction with the [Changing Spaces Library Design Conference 2021](#) to be held on 18 March 2021.

8. Advocacy

The Board thanked all those involved in the preparation of a number of ALIA reports, submissions and statements including:

- [2020 ALIA LIS pay and employment snapshot](#).
- [ALIA supplementary statement about casual work in the library and information sector in Australia](#).
- [ALIA submission in response to the draft legislation to implement the Australian Government's job-ready graduates package](#).
- [ALIA Submission in response to the Australia Council for the Arts re-imagine discussion paper](#).
- [ALIA APLA Submission in response to the Australian Government Inquiry into Australia's creative and cultural industries and institutions](#).

9. National Simultaneous Storytime

Board members were pleased to note the strong interest being shown in the [2021 National Simultaneous Storytime](#) which will feature the book '*Give me some space!*' and include a reading of the book from the International Space Station on 19 May 2021.

10. Course Accreditation

An extension to the accreditation for all 12 ALIA accredited [Diploma of Library and Information Services](#) course was approved by the Board. Completion of the reaccreditation process has been delayed because of COVID-19 restrictions. The extension until 31 March 2021 will enable a thorough reaccreditation process to be completed.



11. Board election

The Board received an update on the 2021 ALIA Board election process with nominations welcomed from ALIA personal Members for the positions of President and two general Directors. Nominations close on 29 January 2021 and the successful candidates will join the Board following the Annual General Meeting on 24 May 2021.

12. Financial sustainability

The financial report for October 2020 was considered and approved by the Board. It was noted that the results were below budget expectations, largely due to the impacts of COVID-19.

The Board also approved the 2021 operating budget and the 2021 capital expenditure budget. The operating budget estimates provide for a return to a small surplus in 2021 while the capital expenditure budget allows for a modest contingency to enable repair or replacement of ICT equipment.

An approach to ethical investment of ALIA cash reserves was also discussed by the Board and in the coming months a detailed strategy will be developed and implemented.

13. ALIA Team update

Trish Hepworth who will head the team delivering the Professional Pathways initiative was welcomed by the Board. Kate Bunker who is retiring from ALIA after making a significant contribution in the areas of course accreditation, mentoring, professional development, policies and guidelines and initiating the Professional Pathways plan was thanked by the Board. James Nicholson, the ALIA Queensland State Manager who is also departing was thanked by the Board for his innovative and enthusiastic approach to his position. Recruitment for a replacement for James will be undertaken in the new year.

Next meeting: Monday 15 March 2021