



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

27 March 2020

Via GoToMeeting

Present

Robert Knight OAM (President and Chair)
Viv Barton (Vice-President)
Helen Ebsworth

Vicki Edmunds
Kim Sherwin
Monika Szunejko

Observers

Stefanie Gaspari
Justine Hyde

Clare Thorpe
Emily Wilson

Apologies

Paula Kelly Paull

Meeting summary

In response to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the March meeting of the ALIA Board of Directors was held via teleconference. The meeting incorporated discussion of a wide range of issues including:

1. 2020 ALIA Directors

The [2020 ALIA Board election](#) saw four new Directors elected to the Board from May 2020; Stefanie Gaspari, Justine Hyde, Clare Thorpe and Emily Wilson. The incoming Directors were welcomed as observers to the March Board meeting.

2. ALIA Fellowship Award

The Board was pleased to confirm the award of an [ALIA Fellowship \(FALIA\)](#) to Bronia Renison. The FALIA distinction is awarded to ALIA members who have reached an exceptional standard of proficiency in library and information science and have made a distinguished contribution to the theory or practice of library and information science. The Board offered congratulations to Bronia who has made a significant contribution in the health libraries sector.



3. Advisory Committee appointments

The Board was also pleased to confirm the appointments of:

- Nicole Hunt as the Chair of the [ALIA Community on Resource Description Advisory Committee \(ACORD\)](#) and Judy Richter as Secretary and Sara Davidsson as Treasurer.
- Edward Luca and Dr Yazdan Mansourian as members of the [ALIA Research Advisory Committee \(RAC\)](#).

The significant contribution made by ALIA Members in a number of volunteer positions was acknowledged by the Board.

4. Course accreditation

The extension of [ALIA accreditation](#) for courses provided by Curtin University and Monash University was approved by the Board.

5. Board sub-committees

The Board resolved to adopt a new [Board sub-committee](#) format from May 2020 consisting of three subcommittees:

- Finance
- Risk and Governance
- Accreditation and Standards.

The new structure is intended to enable better focus on the Board role of governance and strategic intent.

6. NSS and Australia Reads

The Board noted preparations for the upcoming [National Simultaneous Storytime](#) on 27 May that is likely to be largely an online event in 2020 and [Australia Reads](#), including #AustraliaReadsAtHome, culminating in the Reading Hour on 17 September.

7. COVID-19

The Board discussed the response to COVID-19 in the library and broader GLAM sector and confirmed a [COVID-19](#) ALIA strategy that articulates ALIA's approach to and capacity for responding to COVID-19.



8. Financial sustainability

The financial report for January 2020 was considered and approved, with the Board noting that the results were ahead of the budget expectations.

It was acknowledged that the cancellation of the ALIA National Conference in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will impact on the financial reserves of the Association. It was however noted that the prudent financial management and oversight provided by the Board over many years places the Association in a strong position to deal with the difficulties presented by the pandemic.

As part of the ongoing review and mitigation of risk, the Board updated the ALIA Risk register to take into account the risks associated with pandemics, and in particular COVID-19.

Next Meeting: Monday 4 May 2020.