



Australian
Library and
Information
Association

ALIA NAC Regional Reports 2008

Rural and Regional NAC Teleconference
Date: 16 July 2008

1. Attendance:

Jo Keleher, Narelle Nolan, Gemma Siemensma, Melissa Shanhun, Kimberley Hargrave, Val Hooper, Jennifer Kirton, Maggie McCafferty, Cheryl Smith.

Jan Richards (chair) and Robyn Ellard (minutes)

2. Selected representative to attend the national meeting of the NAC (they must be a member)

Name: Kimberley Hargraves

ALIA membership no. _____

3. Review of Education and Workforce Summit outcomes

Members present were pleased to hear about the report on the Summit and subsequent progress on emerging issues.

4. Discussion topic: *Staying smart in a complicated world - professional development*

Our discussion began with consideration of ALIA's PD Scheme. Only five members were enrolled, and there were many questions:

- Robyn (ACT LLO) explained the details of the PD Scheme and how members can use it to track courses and training undertaken. And the cost.
- The cost of the certificate and administration processes (\$36.00) was discussed. Jan agreed that the Board of Directors will consider the costs.
- It was asked if employers know much about the scheme. It was suggested that ALIA needs to build the scheme's profile amongst employers and consider offering the scheme to Institutional members and their staff. It could them be linked to their staff's Performance reviews.

What do we need to do to ensure that we have the skills for a future workforce?

- Suggested that the Course Recognition process for LIS courses be reduced from seven years to ensure that graduates have the skills needed.
- ALIA core competencies for LIS courses was also discussed including the need to evaluate the units which focus on technology.
- ALIA should consider more courses and training, including intensive courses specifically for LIS for example Law for Librarians and online self-paced courses.
- Delegates rated the online FOLIOz courses as very good that ALIA offers in conjunction with the University of Sheffield.

What is the role of employers and employees in professional development?

- Employers must be willing to give time and money to staff for professional development, especially for employers in regional areas as it's even more expensive due to the travel involved.
- Delegates stated that employers are often not encouraging of regional staff pursuing PD opportunities.
- Local Government Association of QLD offers a diploma level study in Community development, aimed at all local government workers. Delegates suggested that the PD Scheme could be used in a similar way to this diploma to build on members' skills and certification.
- Some delegates believe that educators (including TAFE) have a role in pursuing students who don't complete the TAFE diploma in LIS.

Can a compulsory PD Scheme benefit the profession?

- Delegates supported the PD Scheme becoming compulsory and that would benefit the profession, but stated that member numbers would drop
- If it was compulsory, it would need to be phased-in for examples made compulsory over a period of 3-5 years.
- If compulsory PD was introduced, ALIA would need to offer more support for example, no charges for PD certificates, online research journals (including LISA and ALISA), training to regional areas, resources, range of online training opportunities etc.
- It was suggested that instead of compulsory PD, ALIA PD Scheme be boosted to include a new level of membership that's above the level of Associate and Library Technician that makes it clear to all members that the PD Scheme members are considered higher than non PD Scheme ALIA members.
- It was noted that other professions (finance, nursing, engineering etc) must be part of a compulsory PD scheme.
- ALIA needs to market to employers about choosing new staff are certified and are part of the ALIA PD Scheme and what that means for them as an employer.

What do you see is ALIA's role in these areas? How can we engage employers and employees? And other professional bodies and training organisations?

- Courses are still expensive, even with a discount for ALIA membership.
- Encouraging senior members of the LIS profession, including ALIA Directors to organise training for the profession.
- Mentoring was discussed in relation to the LIS profession and PD and that ALIA should coordinate nationally organising the administrative side of the mentoring scheme.

5. Local issues

- Be a central location for the promotion of LIS events and courses in Australia for example CAVAL etc. It was noted that this is the case currently and that all ALIA partners have written into their Memorandum of Understanding.
- It was suggested that ALIA should fund speakers to go on a regional road show.
- Other regional members have found that approaching vendors for example the company which operates Web of Science to present regionally has proven very successful.

Delegates were encouraged to contact Jan Richards or Robyn Ellard if they had any more suggestions or issues

6. Evaluation

Members were reminded that evaluation forms will be emailed around and delegates were requested to fill these in and send them back to Robyn Ellard.