



Australian Library and Information Association

PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Highlights January – July 2010

The ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee advises the Board of Directors on the development of strategic programs for public libraries. The primary task of the Advisory Committee is to develop proposals for a number of activities that will deliver services of particular interest and benefit to public libraries, advocate for public libraries and increase the awareness and participation by the public library sector in ALIA services and activities.



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Organisation

The ALIA Public Library Advisory Committee (PLAC) has undergone a considerable transformation in the first six months of 2010, leading to a new Memorandum of Collaboration between the various organisations representing public libraries in Australia.

The MoC was finalised in July and completed the restructuring of PLAC to comprise the heads of state associations, PLA and territory representatives:

- ACT** Vanessa Little, ACT Library and Information Services
- NSW-C** Graham Smith, Public Libraries NSW Country
- NSW-M** Win Gaffney, Public Libraries NSW Metropolitan
- NT** Cathy Hilder, Northern Territory Library
- QLD** Cheryl Haughton, Queensland Public Libraries
- SA** Janice Nitschke, Public Libraries SA
- TAS** Jenny Rayner, State Library of Tasmania
- VIC** John Murrell, Public Libraries Victoria Network
- WA** Sheena Joyce, Public Libraries WA
- ALIA** Jan Richards
- PLA** Sylvia Swalling

Plus four members of the previous committee:

- ACT** Roxanne Missingham
- NSW** Kathryn Cass
- VIC** Karen Ward-Smith
- WA** George Cowcher

PLAC is now truly representative of public libraries in all states and territories. This provides a forum for debate as well as the opportunity to present a strong, unified front. Partners, politicians and other groups now have a clear route into the Australian public library network.



Campaigns and programs

National Year of Reading

An example of how this changes the landscape can be seen in the launch of the National Year of Reading 2012, an initiative backed by public and state libraries in every state and territory. Many of the groups represented on PLAC have become founder-partners of the National Year of Reading and this initiative will show what can be achieved when public libraries around Australia join forces. More information:

www.love2read.org.au.

Early Literacy

The ALIA Early Literacy Working Group was formed, after an exploratory meeting in June at the State Library of NSW. More information:

www.alia.org.au/earlyliteracy

ALIA Advocacy and Lobbying

ALIA reported significant gains in terms of lobbying and advocacy, especially around the Safer Internet Group/ cyber-safety; school libraries (the House of Representatives Inquiry), and libraries being represented on the Book Industry Strategy Group. PLAC members supported these initiatives.

ALIA also ran a series of Every Member an Advocate Workshops, which were well attended by public library participants.

www.alia.org.au/advocacy

National Standards, Vision and Framework

PLAC is working with Libraries Alive! to produce National Standards for public libraries, and with the Library Agency to develop a National Vision and Framework. These will all be completed in the second half of 2010.

The Summer Reading Club

PLAC members agreed to fund the 2010-2011 Summer Reading Club, around the theme 'Scare up a good book'. The campaign will run from December 2010 to February 2011 in libraries around Australia. More information:

www.summerreadingclub.org.au.

Disaster Recovery

The project to support bushfire affected communities and promote disaster preparedness for libraries was successfully concluded in May 2010. Read the final report:

www.alia.org.au/disasterrecovery

Looking ahead



The Public Libraries Internet User Survey will take place in September/October 2010, providing useful further evidence for positioning public libraries with government.



The ALIA Access 2010 conference in Brisbane in September will feature a public libraries stream. The 2010 ALIA Library Stars will be named at this event.

Contact details

Keep up to date by checking the PLAC web pages:

www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries

For more information, contact:

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