



Australian Library and
Information Association

MEDIA RELEASE

2pm Wednesday 4 December 2013

Assistant Health Minister Fiona Nash has pulled funding from the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia

It is days away from extinction.
Its library of nearly 100,000 essential books and articles – an internationally significant collection – will go to landfill if we can't find a home for it.
Health workers on the front-line of drug addiction, alcoholism, substance abuse, homelessness, poverty and violence are up in arms.
A few weeks isn't long enough. We need the Minister to give us time.

Want to help? Join our petition by texting 'save the books' to
0426 143 349

Advertisement placed by the Australian Library and Information Association
www.alia.org.au

FIGHT TO SAVE DRUGS LIBRARY MOVES TO SENATOR'S HOME TOWN OF YOUNG

Libraries are taking the fight to save the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) to Assistant Health Minister Senator Fiona Nash's home town of Young, NSW, this weekend.

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) has taken an advertisement in the *Young Witness* local newspaper on Friday 6 December and booked a stall at the Farmers' Market, in Anderson Park, Young, on Saturday 7 December, during the town's National Cherry Festival. ALIA will be selling books from the ADCA collection to raise awareness of the plight of the organisation, which went into administration last week after promised funding was axed by the Department of Health. The money raised from the sale will go to Lifeline – one of the many charities that use the National Drug Information Service run by ADCA.

ALIA Executive Director Sue McKerracher explained, 'The ADCA has a library and information service that is used by hundreds of doctors, social workers, psychologists and other health professionals working with most vulnerable Australian families. We hope Senator Nash will be attending the Cherry Festival and will find time to visit our stall so we can talk to her about the importance of this internationally significant library.'

The library's collection of 97,000 essential and often unique items, most of which are not available free on the internet or traceable through Google, will be consigned to landfill unless Senator Fiona Nash relents and grants the organisation a reprieve.

Sue McKerracher again, 'The Australian Government had already promised funding for the ADCA until 2015. By making good on this commitment, the Senator would provide time for the Council to find new funding or a new home for the collection. We hope the Senator will be willing to reconsider the evidence and take on board the reaction of the health community to this closure. Otherwise the vast majority of this irreplaceable collection will be loaded onto trucks, driven away and buried alongside dirty nappies in a big hole outside Canberra. What a waste of the taxpayer's investment.'

ENDS

About the Australian Library and Information Association

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is the professional organisation for the Australian library and information services sector. With 5,500 members across Australia, we provide the national voice of the profession in the development, promotion and delivery of quality library and information services, through leadership, advocacy and mutual support.
www.alia.org.au

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Campaign materials

ALIA has posted an infographic, email signature block, link to the online petition and other resources on its website:

<http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy-and-campaigns/advocacy-campaigns-0/save-drugs-library>

Assistant Health Minister **Fiona Nash** has **CUT OFF** funding from the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), breaking the former government's promise to fund ADCA until 2015.



ADCA works with government agencies, charities and health professionals to promote **evidence-informed** ways of **preventing** and **reducing** the poverty, homelessness and violence caused by drug and alcohol addiction.

About the National Drug Sector Information Service


97 000
essential & often unique items

The library holds all the research produced by drug and alcohol agencies across Australia

Home to more than 50 years' worth of evidence leading to the development of our current health legislation **50** years

Highly specialised areas include the National Inhalants Information Service, used extensively by health professionals in remote Australia

Used by GPs, social workers, health professionals, policy makers and researchers

One of the most significant libraries on alcohol and drugs in the world 

What is the impact of this closure?

On average Australian health libraries return **\$9** for every **\$1** invested

Closure risks 'policy by Wikipedia'

The National Drug Sector Information Service provides an invaluable and irreplaceable service. The bottom line is that this will hurt the most vulnerable people in our community.

Don't let this collection go to landfill.

Want to help? Join our petition by texting 'save the books' to **0426 143 349**

