



Call for Expressions of Interest – Community cohesion programs in your library

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from university libraries to participate in a 2025/26 initiative promoting community cohesion. This initiative is funded by the Office of Community Cohesion within the Department of Home Affairs and has the support of the Australian Public Library Alliance (APLA).

Up to 10 university libraries will be selected to participate and paid \$9,900 (including GST) to deliver a series of programs as part of the project.

EOIs must address the selection criteria and be submitted via the [online form](#). Do NOT fill out or sign the Contract.

EOIs must be submitted by 25 July 2024.

1. Background

The Australian Government is undertaking various efforts to create a stronger and more connected society. Everyone has a role in building this vision where differences are respected, our democracy is valued and people are active participants in their community.

The Office of Community Cohesion's engagement approach aims to strengthen understanding, grow connections and protect our togetherness and democratic values. These themes of Strengthen, Grow and Protect are described below.

STRENGTHEN the shared understanding of the human, social, economic and environmental value of social cohesion and the roles and responsibilities we each have in maintaining it.

GROW connections and conversations. Supporting more people to connect to family, friends and those with different backgrounds, perspectives, experiences, cultures and faiths. Ensuring people can better connect to local/community organisations, institutions and government and be active in the decisions that impact them.

PROTECT cohesion, togetherness and democratic values during times of shocks and stresses. While building and strengthening social cohesion will help create resilience, extra efforts are required when our cohesion is put to the test.

Libraries are known as trusted and accessible places in Australian communities, that also reach into the most regional and remote parts of the country. Using codesign principles, the



Office of Community Cohesion is partnering with ALIA to roll out programs in public and university libraries which strengthen, grow and protect community cohesion.

2. Overview of services required

We are seeking university libraries that can deliver and report on a series of programs to support community cohesion under the themes of strengthen, grow and protect.

The programs must be delivered over three months between 1 August 2025 and 30 April 2026 and address different demographic groups, e.g. youth, seniors, families, CALD communities or those at risk of isolation.

This EOI seeks information about your current programs that align with the strengthen, grow and protect themes and your ability to develop new programs. Libraries that are successful in the EOI process will then be required to develop their suite of programs and will be assisted with sample programs and a resource kit provided by ALIA.

Participating libraries will be required to check in with ALIA every month and provide a final report on the programs delivered. This will include an overview of the activities, the level of engagement and number of participants, feedback from participants and an overall evaluation of its success and lessons learned.

3. Overview of resources and support

3.1 Introduction and briefing

ALIA will introduce the program to interested university libraries via a webinar on 15 July. This will include a representative from the Office of Community Cohesion. The webinar will run through the purpose of the program, expectations and reporting requirements. It will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

3.2 Resources

ALIA will provide participating libraries with a resource kit which will include sample community cohesion programs and ideas that can be adapted by libraries for their community and target audiences. Additional resources from cultural institutions that support community cohesion programs and reporting templates will also be provided.

3.3 Payment for services

Each participating library service will receive \$9,900 (including GST). Payments will be made upon achievement of milestones, e.g. on signing the agreement, active participation and promotion of the program and completion of reporting requirements.



3.4 Support

ALIA will support participating libraries with monthly information and feedback sessions, access to a dedicated SharePoint site to connect with other participating libraries, share ideas and learn from each other, and a contact person at ALIA for questions.

4. Selection criteria

- Details about the library's current programs that address aspects of social cohesion eg study tips sessions, welcome events for international students and wellbeing drop in sessions.
- List of organisations or community groups that the library currently partners with to deliver programs in the community.
- Ability to deliver a minimum of six different community cohesion programs over the three month period which support the themes of strengthen, grow and protect and are designed for different demographic groups.
- Ability to collate data and report on programs and contribute feedback for the evaluation report.
- Ability to comply with the terms of the draft contract. Indicate any terms which are not acceptable.

We are seeking a wide geographical spread of libraries across each state and territory with more than half of the libraries located in regional areas.

5. Timeline

INDICATIVE TIMELINE	
By Date	Action
7 July	Call for EOI issued by ALIA
15 July	Information webinar for interested libraries
25 July	Closing date for submission of EOI to ALIA via the online form
5 August	Successful libraries notified by ALIA
15 August	Successful libraries sign contract with ALIA

6. Contact details

Email: communitycohesion@alia.org.au

7. Information for Respondents

7.1. Definitions

Call means this Call for EOIs.



EOI means a response to this Call submitted by a Respondent in accordance with the terms and conditions.

Respondent means an organisation that submits an EOI.

7.2. Invitation

This Call is not an offer. It is a formal request for Respondents to submit an EOI. Nothing in this Call is to be construed as creating any binding contract (express or implied) between ALIA and any Respondent.

7.3. Accuracy of Call

ALIA does not warrant the accuracy of the content of this Call and will not be liable for any omission from the Call documents.

7.4. Additions and amendments

ALIA reserves the right to change any information or to issue an addenda to this Call.

7.5. Representation

No representation made by or on behalf of ALIA in relation to this Call (or its subject matter) will be binding on ALIA unless the representation is expressly incorporated into any contract(s) ultimately entered into between ALIA and a Respondent.

7.6. Seek own advice

This Call is not business, investment, legal or tax advice. Respondents should seek their own independent professional advice in respect of all matters in connection with this Call.

7.7. Bear own costs

All expenses and costs incurred by a Respondent in connection with this Call, including preparing and lodging an EOI, providing ALIA with further information, giving presentations, attending interviews and participating in any subsequent negotiations, are the sole responsibility of the Respondent.

7.8. How to lodge the EOI

EOIs must address the selection criteria and be submitted via the online form. EOIs submitted by any other means including by hand or fax, will not be accepted by ALIA.

Do NOT fill out or sign the contract.

EOIs must be submitted by **25 July 2025**.



7.9. Respondent's Acknowledgement

Respondent's acknowledge that:

(a) lodgement of their EOI in accordance with the terms and conditions is entirely their responsibility;

(b) by providing their EOI they accept the conditions set out in this Call; and

(c) ALIA will not be liable for any loss, damage, costs or expenses incurred by Respondent's or any other person if, for any reason, an EOI or any other material or communication relevant to this Call, is not received on time, is corrupted or altered or otherwise is not received as sent, cannot be read or decrypted, or has its security or integrity compromised.

7.10. Selection Process

ALIA will use these terms and the selection criteria to assess all EOIs from Respondents. This assessment will be based on information provided by the Respondent in their EOI. ALIA may also seek clarification or additional information from Respondents in order to assist with the selection process.

ALIA will then make a recommendation on up to 115 successful EOIs to the Department for approval.

7.11. Advice on outcome of Call for EOIs

If an EOI is successful, the Respondent will be invited to enter into a contract with ALIA.

7.12. No contract

Nothing in this Call, or the submission of an EOI constitutes a contract, express or implied, with ALIA. ALIA intends that no contract will be formed unless and until ALIA signs a formal contract with the successful Respondents.