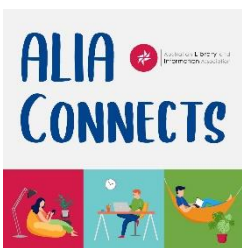




Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the ALIA Board, Members, Committees, Groups and staff have worked fast to respond to the changing situation. This is a summary of what you will have seen.

1. Keeping you informed and connected



With weekly updates from the ALIA Board, regular issues of ALIA Weekly, daily updates to our COVID-19 web pages, specialist health-related content from ALIA Health Libraries Australia and digital issues of INCITE magazine.

Weekly ALIA Connects Zoom catch ups over a drink on Friday nights, daytime topical chats, online book clubs, trivia contests, jigsaw puzzles and monthly AusLibChat on Twitter from our New Generation Advisory Committee.

2. Setting up the ALIA Relief Fund



For Members experiencing financial hardship, a \$500 relief payment to help them through.

3. Moving events online

More than 70 members attended ALIA's AGM, National Simultaneous Storytime reached over one million participants, and Library and Information Week #LIW2020 Create Online, by ALIA Members Gemma Steele and Jessica Pietsch included a free social media webinar before the week and a survey post campaign.



Our first fully virtual conference, True or False? Media literacy for capable, confident, critical thinkers takes place on 3 September with a top line-up of speakers from Google, cultural institutions and academia, all introduced by the Australian Government eSafety Commissioner.



4. Helping LIS students graduate

By working with our LIS educators to make special arrangements for industry placements.

As part of the Australian Council of Professions, we worked with other peak bodies to produce the Joint Statement of Principles for the Higher-Education Sector COVID-19 Response upholding the need for a robust education system that can accommodate the extraordinary circumstances created by the pandemic.

5. Giving all Members opportunities to learn

Bumper issues of ALIA PD Postings, our monthly newsletter full of free PD ideas, including one open access issue for everyone. ALIA PD videos, webinars and tutorials free for Members, plus new advocacy and copyright training courses and special online support for participants in the ALIA Mentoring Scheme.



6. Creating news angles and talking up libraries in the media

Generating more than 40 items on radio and through online news channels.

'ALIA's nationwide survey of library users has shown that, after book borrowing, social interaction has been the biggest loss felt by the community during the COVID-19 lockdown of public libraries.'

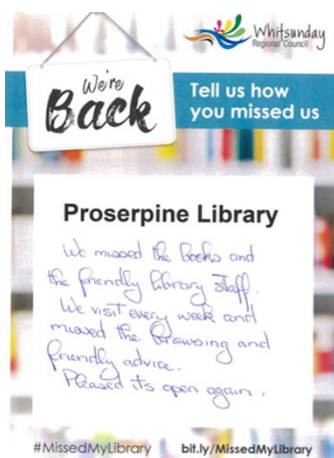
7. Sharing best practice for libraries at every stage of the pandemic

Including this checklist for [reopening libraries](#), the latest scientific research on [quarantining items](#), and guidance for [contact tracing](#). By monitoring and reporting how libraries have responded during COVID-19 through [feedback](#) and [surveys](#).

'A huge congratulations to the ALIA team for the Reopening Framework document. I've seen a couple of examples (including my own Library service) where your plan has been used virtually verbatim. This was an exceedingly well-timed, well-constructed support mechanism, so thank you again'

'I want to thank you for sharing this checklist, it is beautiful and simple.'

8. Providing useful things



Zoom backgrounds, social media and website images, [translated signage](#) and text for libraries to communicate with linguistically diverse communities, and the ['We're Back'](#) campaign for reopening.

9. Removing uncertainty about storytimes

We negotiated an agreement with Books Create Australia, to enable public libraries to livestream and share recordings of picture book storytimes without fear of copyright breach. By 31 July, there were more than 100 public and state library storytimes listed on [ALIA's webpage](#), with each library recording between one and 30 storytimes. This also led to a similar agreement for schools.

10. Putting libraries front and centre with government

In discussions with Departments, politicians and advisers and with submissions to relevant reviews, including the [Senate Inquiry into COVID-19](#).

ALIA worked with the Office of the Arts Minister to secure \$100K in funding (a 50% increase) for this year's [Australia Reads](#) campaign.



11. Keeping authors in business

With more than 30 other cultural organisations, ALIA co-signed a [creative industry COVID-19 stimulus letter](#) to the Prime Minister requesting help for writers and other artists.

We encouraged library staff to restock their libraries with new print and ebooks; and promoted creators who were able to deliver programs online for library users. By 31 July, the [webpage](#) had 132 authors listed.



12. Flying the flag for Australia

During the pandemic, we have been regularly in touch with colleagues overseas. Our work in Australia was featured in the IFLA article, [Tell us how you missed us: How user testimonials are supporting library advocacy in Australia and Germany](#) and we know that our materials have been used elsewhere in the world.

'On behalf of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, and all of us working on this over here in Canada, thank you for this! It's fantastic and inspiring us for our Think Tank on Recovery and Reimagining Library Services post-COVID-19.'

This is a snapshot of the COVID-19 related activity carried out by ALIA from March to July 2020. If you have feedback or ideas about what more ALIA can do to support Members and stakeholders, please contact us via advocacy@alia.org.au.