

Friday 8 November 2013

## **INELI-Oceania Announcement Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funds regional leadership program**

- It is announced today that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will fund a regional leadership program for emerging library leaders in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands. The program called INELI-Oceania is based on the highly successful foundation's Global Libraries' initiative INELI (International Network of Library Innovators) established in 2011. The funding amount is \$550,000 (AUD) over 5 years.
- The objective of the program is to create a regional network of emerging library innovators and foster collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders in the region as well as pilot a regional adaption of the international program.
- The program will be delivered in partnership with ALIA (Australian Library and Information Association); LIANZA (Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa); and NSLA (National and State Libraries of Australasia.). Other organisations offering sponsorship for the program include the National Library of Australia, National Library of New Zealand, the State Library of Queensland and Public Libraries Victoria Network. Further partners and sponsors will be sought as the program develops.
- It will bring together a group of emerging library leaders from Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific to participate in a leadership program designed to develop their effectiveness as leaders and innovators able to contribute significantly to the future development of public libraries in the region.
- INELI-Oceania will build the skill level of participants through online learning modules and workshops held during two convenings. There will be two cohorts of INELI-Oceania to prove the concept, with at least 16 participants and 4 mentors involved in each program, along with an experienced learning facilitator.
- INELI-Oceania will foster partnerships and collaboration between the Library Associations in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific and the National, State and Public libraries of the region.
- Government agencies and aid organizations in the South Pacific will become aware of the benefits of fostering strong and viable public library systems through their engagement with the program.
- An Establishment Committee of Christine Mackenzie, CEO Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Jo McGill, Director Northern Territory Library, and Allison Dobbie, Manager Libraries and Information, Auckland Council is leading this proposal.



- A Steering Committee is being established and will comprise the Establishment Committee along with representatives from ALIA, LIANZA and NSLA.
- The participants will be chosen by the Steering Committee and it is intended that 6 come from Australia, 6 from New Zealand and 4 from the South Pacific, with the number from the Pacific growing over time.
- An invitation to apply for the program will be made in February 2014 and the program will commence in July.

For further information and photo opportunities please contact

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