



ALIA Health Libraries Australia Advisory Committee Annual Report 2016

February 2017

Membership

- 3 new HLA executive members added to the current Advisory Committee

Meetings

- HLA Exec meetings were held monthly during 2016, plus a strategic planning day in Sydney
- Agenda covers 5 portfolio areas: PD, Education & Training; Partnerships & Collaborations; Demonstrating Value (Advocacy, Research, Marketing, Awards); Membership; Publishing & Communications

Activities

- Advice provided to the ALIA Board
- Advocacy, including submissions: MOUs signed off with HIMAA and ACHI; joint workforce/education advocacy, including health information professions research begun; advised on ALIA submission to Australian government for health librarians to be classified in the 'skills shortages' professions; ABS classification in the health information professions achieved.
- Participation in events, conferences: National HLA PD Day held in Sydney, July 2016; participated in ALIA National Conference in Adelaide (on Employers panel); presented and participated in Special Libraries Summit (Adelaide, following National Conference); invited and attended European Association of Health Information and Libraries conference and board meeting Seville;
- Reports generated: Results of Health libraries/librarians Census Report;
- Other: Awarded ALIA Research Award: National Safety and Quality in Health Services Standards research project to be conducted 2017

Alignment with ALIA Strategic Plan

Outcome 1: Strengthening our membership

Increased membership due to employment of a National Project Manager (12 month contract) to focus on recruitment/retention strategies.



Outcome 2: Strengthening our Association

Collaborations with other health information professional associations.

Census of health librarians/libraries has provided a national data set for advocacy.

Outcome 3: Strengthening our Profession

Maintaining and improving standards of professional practice continues to be a priority, the major focus has been on education/professional development:

- First cohort of specialist certified Health Librarians awarded certificates in July 2016;
- Health Librarianship Essentials online course run for the second time;
- Carol Lefebvre workshops held nationally
- HLA supports the Australian Evidence-based Librarianship Institute, run annually, attended by 20-25 librarians
- Health Information Workforce research (UNi Tas and Uni Melb – HLA is a member of the reference group, and is contributing to focus groups, expert panel and consultation groups).

Outcome 4: The Future of our Profession

Forward plans

- Issues, opportunities and challenges for the following year:
 - major challenges are projected workforce skills shortages; improving pay rates for health librarians needs national leadership and coordination
 - opportunities: consumer health literacy/consumer engagement; national digital/ehealth initiatives; research data management
- Proposed activities:
 - Annual PD Day and Strategic Planning Day to be held in Perth 13/14 July;
 - Carol Lefebvre workshops to be run again Nov/Dec;
 - Health Librarianship Essentials online course beginning mid-year
 - ANDS workshops (various locations March – June)

Summary of the sector/topic

- Brief overview – see Census results
- Statistics