



ALIA supports its Members during COVID-19

August 2020 – April 2021 update



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Since ALIA released its [ALIA supports its Members during COVID-19](#) report in July 2020 much has changed. Several states have gone into and come out of lockdown, the vaccine rollout is well underway and library staff have constantly readjusted their services to meet government requirements whilst serving community needs. ALIA has continued to support its Members and the industry through online conferences, free resources and by keeping its Members up to date with all the current news. The following report features details on how ALIA has continued to support its Members during the pandemic over the nine months from August 2020 to April 2021.



1. Keeping you informed and connected

Regular updates to our [COVID-19 web pages](#).

[ALIA Connects](#) Zoom catch ups and frequent opportunities to engage in online discussions.



2. ALIA Relief Fund

Relief funds were ultimately re-directed (after \$4,900 was given out in grants) to support up to ten ALIA members with registration for the ALIA Information Online 2021 conference.



3. Moving events online

ALIA Information Online Conference 2021, its subsequent In-Depth series, and the Changing Spaces Library Design Conference 2021 were all held as online events.

Each of these conferences received high-levels of attendance and engagement, with 2,700 people registered for Information Online.



4. Giving all Members opportunities to learn

Bumper issues of ALIA PD Postings, our monthly newsletter full of free PD ideas. ALIA created a series of FAQ videos and additional resources and support to the Public Library Proficiency participants from South Australia. The 2020 intake of ALIA Mentoring Scheme participants was supported with the new addition of the Moodle online platform to build capacity to meet and network online.



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

ALIA produced the reporting template, [How the library has supported your community](#) as an advocacy tool to for libraries to communicate with stakeholders. We promoted our 'We're back' survey and campaign, and provided updated resources which assisted libraries in making COVIDsafe decisions such as procedures around quarantining books.



6. Online Storytime Pilot

ALIA negotiated an agreement with the Australian Publishers Association (APA) to run a [new pilot scheme in 2021](#). Under this pilot scheme, participating public libraries could record online storytime sessions in return for a small annual payment.

7. National and international relations

Following an email from an ALIA Member, ALIA contacted the Australian Local Government Association regarding when library professionals in customer facing positions would receive COVID-19 vaccinations. Following this communication the President of ALGA released a statement [calling for frontline council workers to get early COVID-19](#) vaccinations.

This is a snapshot of the COVID-19 related activity carried out by ALIA from August 2020 to April 2021. 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.