



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 August 2021

Via Zoom

Present

Vicki Edmunds (President)

Stefanie Gaspari (Vice-President)

Mary Carroll

Justine Hyde

Alissa Sputore

Clare Thorpe

Emily Wilson

Meeting summary

At meetings held over two days in August, the ALIA Board discussed a wide range of issues including:

1. Strategic plan

Board members took part in a strategic discussion to develop the next iteration of the ALIA Strategic Plan with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as its planning framework.

The Board renewed its commitment to ALIA playing a leading role in raising awareness of how the SDG are being delivered by the sector through advocacy, storytelling and information-sharing. The Board placed specific emphasis on SDG-related training and professional development for Members and on ALIA itself being an exemplar for SDG principles through the promotion of diversity, an increased focus on sustainability initiatives and on responsible procurement and partnerships.

Four strategic priorities were confirmed:

- Supporting a resilient, diverse workforce
- Developing alliances and collaborative ventures
- Succeeding through advocacy
- Enhancing Member value.

The revised ALIA strategic plan will be confirmed at the December Board meeting.

2. Presidential theme update

An update on activities associated with the 2021-2023 Presidential theme of diversity for our workforce and library services was provided to the Board.

Highlights of activities included:

- ALIA training course on Customer Service: Diversity and Inclusion.

- Member event to outline the research findings from a Deakin University study of public library children's picture books – Rainbow families: collection development considerations.
- [ALIA Disability](#) is becoming an established Group, sponsored by the ALIA President.
- A workforce diversity survey featured in the [July/August 2021 INCITE digital supplement](#) that also included a preview of Kirsten Thorpe's workforce diversity study of Indigenous knowledge workers.
- The July 2021 cohort of the ALIA mentoring scheme, with 74 mentees is the most diverse to date with people asking to be matched with mentors from culturally and linguistically diverse and Queer backgrounds.

3. Professional Pathways

An update on the Professional Pathways initiative to ensure a diverse, skilled, knowledgeable, supported and valued library and information services workforce was received. The Board provided feedback to inform the ongoing research and looked forward to the completion of the Technical Report by the end of October 2021.

4. Advisory Committee appointments

Board members were pleased to confirm several ALIA Advisory Committee appointments:

- Rory Caddis and Megan Chorusch as members of the New Generation Advisory Committee.
- Atlanta Meyer as a member of the International Relations Advisory Committee.
- Sandra Wretham as Treasurer for the ALIA Community on Resource Description.
- Sue Hutley and Annette Mills as the continuing ALIA representative and proxy on Blue Shield Australia.

The Board thanked these Members for their willingness to participate in the work of ALIA, providing input into the strategic decisions made by the Board.

5. Website and database

An overview of the relaunched [ALIA Website](#) was provided to the Board. The new website provides increased functionality and ease of use for members. All ALIA Members have been sent an email with details of how to login to the Member-only section of the website.

6. Conference update

Planning continues for a number of ALIA conferences, with some moving to an online format. The Board received an update on the following events:

- The National Library and Information Technicians' Symposium that will be held as a virtual event on 28 October with a theme of 'Connections'. [Registrations](#) for the symposium are now open.
- A series of *In-Depth* events is underway, with the registrations for the next event focusing on Digital Preservation also open for [registrations](#).
- The [ALIA National Conference 2022](#) is scheduled to be held in person at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 16-19 May. 'Diversity' is the conference theme and proposals for presentations are being sought.
- Preparation for the New Librarians symposium, NLSX has been put on hold in the light of COVID, with the event postponed until 2023.



7. Financial sustainability

The financial report for June 2021 was considered and approved by the Board. A year-to-date surplus was reported, largely due to positive results from the Information Online and Library Design conferences and National Simultaneous Storytime merchandise sales. In addition, expenditure is below expectations, in part due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel.

ALIA reserves, including proceeds from the sale of ALIA House are progressively being invested following an ethical investment approach overseen by a newly established ALIA Investment Advisory Committee. The Board reviewed a report outlining the progress of the investment portfolio and were pleased with the results to date.