



## Q&A sheet

### Is ALIA in financial trouble?

The financial status of ALIA is secure and stable. The Association returned to surplus in 2019; is on track for a further surplus in 2020, and we have bank reserves in excess of \$2 million. This decision has not been made because ALIA is in financial distress, but rather to safeguard the financial future of the Association. The property requires significant maintenance as it ages; for example, the Association paid out \$550,000 in 2018/2019 for necessary building, lift and washroom refurbishments.

### Will the ALIA team be moving out of the property/ Canberra?

There are no plans for ALIA to move out of 9-11 Napier Close and it is likely that the Association will remain in the same office for at least three years post-sale as a tenant. Longer term, and as workplace technology improves, this decision will provide future leaders of the Association with more flexibility to choose how and where to employ staff.

### Who decided to sell the property?

The ALIA Board made this decision on the advice of an Advisory Committee of ALIA Members with a long-term interest in the property, with supporting evidence from Deloitte finance consultants, the Civium Property Group and Purdon Planning.

### Who sat on the Advisory Committee?

- Robert Knight, ALIA President (Chair)
- Craig Anderson, University Librarian, Deakin University
- Alex Byrne, former CEO State Library of NSW
- Patricia Genat, Managing Director, Australian Library Services
- Roxanne Missingham, University Librarian, ANU
- Jennefer Nicholson, former Director General International Federation of Library Associations & ALIA CEO
- Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, former Director General National Library

### Were ALIA Members consulted?

An Advisory Committee was formed in 2019, comprising ALIA members and library leaders with a long-standing interest in the Canberra property.



### Where is the money going?

The money will go to a balanced investment vehicle. It will be held as a reserve, not for operational use.

### Will there be any change to the way my membership fee is used?

This is about asset management not ALIA operations. It will not affect how membership fees are spent on Member benefits.

### How much is the property selling for?

The property will be listed for sale in May 2020. How much the buyer will pay will be influenced by the rental yield of the building. As the property is currently fully tenanted, it will be worth more than it was in 2016, when it was only partially tenanted. At that time, it was valued at \$4.55 million.

### Will the property still be called 'ALIA House'?

ALIA plans to retain naming rights for the building while we are a tenant.

### Is ALIA buying a new property?

Owning another property, right-sized for the future needs of the Association is one of the possibilities which can be considered in the medium term.

### Will this affect membership fees, subscription fees, conference costs etc?

No.

### How can I get in touch to express any concerns / feelings about this decision?

Contact the ALIA Board [aliaboard@alia.org.au](mailto:aliaboard@alia.org.au).