

# Committees and Groups Review

ALIA Groups and Committees are an essential part of the life of the Association and the LIS sector in Australia. Groups and committees are run by energetic and committed volunteer ALIA members who generously give their time to create active and vibrant professional networks that contribute to the sector in a variety of ways, from running professional learning and social events through to the creation of sector standards and the provision of advice to the ALIA Board.

## Background

ALIA's Committees and Groups were reviewed in 2022. Initially this involved a desktop review to identify their currency, activity level, membership, functions, initiatives, outputs, social media presence and financial status.

From the review it was clear that member engagement with Committees and Groups is critical to ALIA's success and a strong LIS sector. The contribution made by members provides incredibly valuable expertise to the Board and the industry more broadly in the form of policy, advocacy, collaboration and connection.

### **Some further observations from the review included:**

- Advisory Committees and Groups have been established for a multitude of reasons at different times. Many have evolved and may serve a different function than that for which they were originally established.
- Not all Committees and Groups have a terms of reference.
- A number of Advisory Committees did not have a regular dialogue with the Board.
- The ALIA Groups Handbook needs to be reviewed and updated.
- ALIA provides support for Groups in the form of website development, promotion of events in ALIA News and CPD Digest, graphic design, event support, CPD registration, insurance coverage for volunteers and management of finances. However not all groups are aware of the level of support available from National Office.



## The changes

Recognising the critical importance of Groups and Committees to ALIA, and the review's identification of areas that needed strengthening, the ALIA Board resolved to take the following actions in order to better support the work of Groups and Committees:

- To provide clarity for all, every Committee and every Special Interest Group will have a terms of reference.
- To create a new structure for Committees and Groups with 5 categories:
  - » Sectors
  - » Advisory Committees
  - » Special Interest Groups
  - » Regional Groups
  - » Working Groups (as needs basis)
- To effect these changes, some existing Groups and Advisory Committees will change their current format to better reflect their role.
- ALIA will establish a forum for Convenors of Regional Groups and a forum for Convenors of Special interest Groups to share ideas, build capacity and provide mutual support.
- ALIA will employ a full-time Regional Engagement Manager to support Groups, and allocate support from National Office and the ALIA Board to support Special Interest Groups, Advisory Committees, Working Groups and Sector Committees.
- ALIA will charge 15% on income received by financial Groups to reflect ALIA's overhead costs.

### Sectors

The purpose of an ALIA Sector Committee is for those sectors where an independent body (eg NSLA, CAUL) or external coalition (School Library Coalition) does not exist. For these sectors an ALIA Sector Committee can be appointed by the ALIA Board in consultation with state representatives of that sector or other ALIA members from that sector. The ALIA Sector Committees would be Public Libraries Sector Committee (APLA), VET Libraries Sector (VLAC), Australian Government Library and Information Network (AGLIN)/Special and Health Libraries Sector (HLA).

The Sector Committees would drive the development of their own campaigns, professional development, policy and advocacy in close consultation with ALIA National Office. The Sector Committees could also be sources of advice for the ALIA Board as required and would be critical contributors to ALIA's overall program of activities.

### Advisory Committees

Advisory Committees will advise the ALIA Board in those areas where the Board actively seeks advice on a regular basis in alignment with the Strategic Plan.

The Advisory Committees will be:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Advisory Group
- New Generation Advisory Committee
- International Relations Advisory Committee
- Research Advisory Committee
- Education Advisory Committee

The following Advisory Committees will transition to be a Sector Committees:

- Health Libraries Australia
- Australian Public Library Alliance
- VET Libraries
- Australian Government Libraries Information Network (AGLIN)/Specials



The following Advisory Committees will transition to be a Special Interest Groups:

- ALIA Community on Resource Description (ACORD)
- Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee (ILLAC)

The School Libraries Advisory Committee will merge with the ALIA Schools Special Interest Group and become the ALIA Schools Special Interest Group.

The Book Industry and Lending Advisory Committee will be wound up and a working group will be established on an as needs basis.

## Special Interest Groups

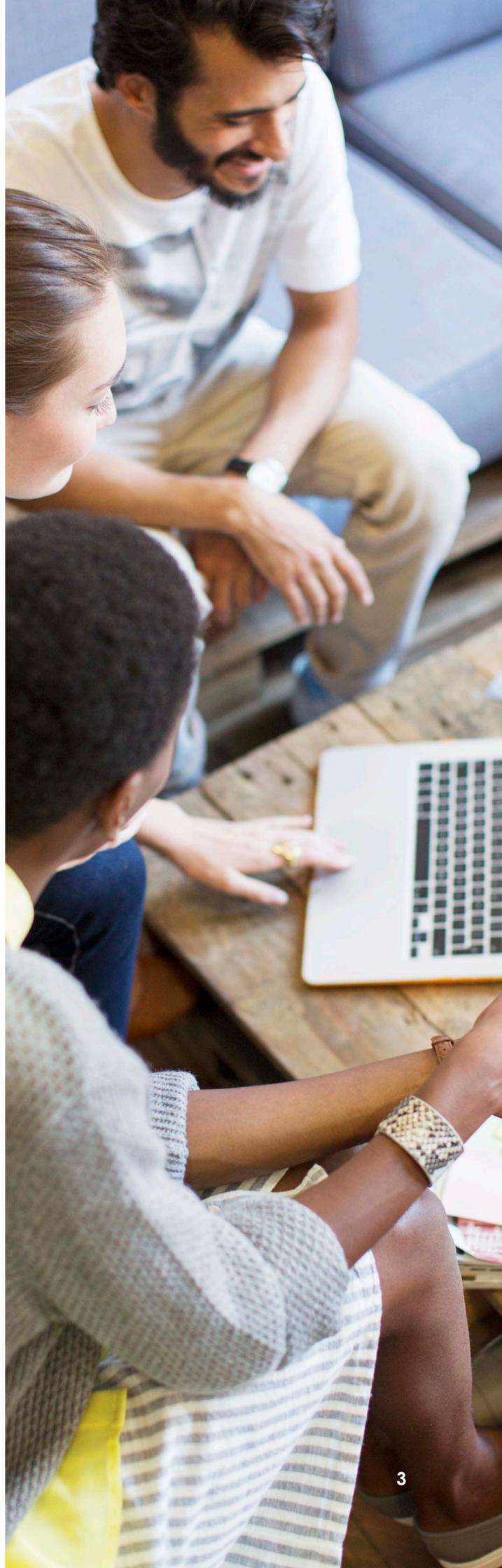
Special Interest Groups will be groups brought together around specific topic and will enable members to engage, participate, develop and advise in relation to the area of interest. The preference will be for ALIA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to have a national focus and membership where possible. We will also look to make a connection between IFLA Section Committees and ALIA SIGs, especially where ALIA members sit on those IFLA Committees.

## Regional Groups

Regional Groups will support local networking and events, celebrate the local community and advise ALIA on any local issues. A full-time Regional Engagement Manager (REM) will work closely with Regional Group Convenors. There will be a focus on reinvigorating the Regional Groups and creating opportunities for face to face events.

## Working Groups

These will enable experts to be brought together to work on a specific issue or emerging trend eg government submission, advocacy, artificial intelligence. These working groups would be focused only on that particular issue and would have a short to medium term. This will provide flexibility for the engagement of ALIA members in a broader range of contexts and may provide opportunities for the participation of those members who are unable to provide the time commitment to a standing Committee or Group.



# Library Sectors

<b>Schools</b>	<b>Australian Coalition for School Libraries</b> Unincorporated coalition. ALIA is a member. Other members are national and state school library associations
<b>Public</b>	<b>Australian Public Library Alliance</b> Public library sector committee (currently APLA Advisory Committee) with representatives of State public library associations, ACT, NT and Tasmania libraries.
<b>Academic</b>	<b>CAUL</b> - CAUL is an independent company
	<b>VET Libraries sector committee</b> (currently VET Library Advisory Committee)
<b>National/State</b>	<b>National State Libraries Australasia</b> - NSLA is an independent company
<b>Specials</b>	<b>Health Libraries sector committee</b> (currently ALIA HLA)
	<b>Government/Specials Libraries sector committee</b> (currently AGLIN/ Specials Working Group)
	<b>Australian Law Library Association</b> (ALLA) is an independent association
	<b>Australian Parliamentary Library Association</b> (APLA) is an independent association.



# ALIA Committees and Groups

## Sector Committees

Australian Public Libraries  
VET Libraries  
Health Libraries  
Government/Special Libraries

## Advisory Committees

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Expert Advisory Group  
New Generation  
Education  
International  
Research

## Regional Groups

Northern Territory  
(includes TopEnd and Red Centre)  
Queensland  
(includes TropicALIA and Gold Coast)  
NSW  
(includes Hunter, Sydney and South Coast)

ACT  
Victoria  
ALIA Island  
South Australia  
Western Australia

## Special Interest Groups

ACORD	Government and Specials	QULOC
Adult Literacy	Graphic	Rainbow
ATSILIRN	Health	Rare books/collections
Australasian Libraries in Emergency and Security	Interlibrary lending	Retirees
Capital City Libraries	LARK	Schools
Childrens and Youth Services	Law Librarians	Students and new graduates
Digitisation and Preservation	Library Technicians	Sustainable Libraries
Disability	Multicultural	University and Research Libraries
	Prison Libraries	

