



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Thursday 23 March 2023

via Zoom

Present

Vicki Edmunds (President)
Clare Thorpe (Vice President)
Hero Macdonald
Janette Wright
Kathryn Eyre
Mary Carroll
Alissa Sputore

Meeting summary

The meeting was held over four hours and included guest presentations from the Chair of the Professional Pathways Advisory Board, Geoff Stempel and the Chair of the International Relations Advisory Committee (IRAC) Vicki MacDonald and IRAC member Roxanne Missingham. A wide range of issues were discussed by the Board, some of which are set out below.

1. Market research and member survey

The Board considered the results of the survey of members (current, past and possible) that was undertaken by the market research company, Bastion Insights, in late 2022. The results were considered alongside the desktop research and the results of the focus groups.

The Board listened to what members said and made a number of decisions in response including:

- To adopt the following purpose statement for ALIA
"To engage members in promoting a strong, future focused Australian library and information sector to advance access to information for an inclusive and informed society."
- To begin work on the development of an Australian Code of Ethics with input from all LIS sectors.

While further results from the market research will be shared with members in coming weeks the Board has decided to defer any review and further consultation on membership categories until 2024.



2. Strategic Plan

The Board approved a new set of Key Performance Indicators for 2023 against the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. These ensure that the ALIA team stays focused on achieving the key priorities for the sector.

3. Professional Pathways

Geoff Stempel, Chair of the Professional Pathways Advisory Board (PPAB), joined the meeting to provide a report from the PPAB on the progress of the Professional Pathways initiative. Since the December Board meeting the PPAB has been hard at work over summer analysing the results of the consultation and developing proposals for consideration by the ALIA Board.

The revised proposal is expected to go out for the second and final stage of consultation in May.

4. Policy and Advocacy

The Board noted the substantial amount of work being undertaken including in areas such as:

- inclusion of school library data in the reporting requirements under the National School Reform Agreement
- submission to the inquiry into the National Cultural Policy Revive: A place for every story, a story for every place
- better access to Standards Australia
- support for ongoing funding of Trove
- submission to the inquiry into digital platforms drawing attention to the concerns around market concentration and power, and the importance of libraries' role in media literacy.
- Artificial Intelligence in libraries
- ongoing work with Australian Media Literacy Alliance, Books Create Australia, GLAMPeak and the National Early Language and Literacy Coalition.

5. Research Award

The ALIA Research Award will change from \$5,000 every year to \$10,000 every two years. More details of the timing and eligibility criteria will be communicated in coming months.

6. Groups and Committees

The ALIA Board noted the ongoing achievements of ALIA Groups and Committees and the implementation of the changes to their structure.

7. Audited Financial Statements

The 2022 Audited Financial Statements were approved by the Board for inclusion in the Annual Report.