



## APLA meeting, Monday 5 February 2024

The online meeting included representatives from all jurisdictions except for WA and NSW.

### Guests

- Madelene McGrath & Helen Fogarty, National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)
- Di Laycock, Australian Coalition for School Libraries (ACSL)
- Dr Jane Garner, Charles Sturt University (CSU)

### Key Messages

- Development of principles for partnering with APLA
  - Following the success of the ALIA-Department of Health & Aged Care (DoHAC) Pilot Program, DoHAC has invited ALIA to submit a response to a RFQ for the roll out of communication materials to libraries nationally.
  - It was agreed that there is a need for APLA to develop a guiding principles document to inform partnerships with public libraries.
- ALIA at Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade, Fair Day and Library Lovers' Day.
  - Library Lovers' Day is celebrated on 14 February each year. A new range of ALIA Library Love merchandise, including t-shirts, dog bandanas, phone cases, is available for purchase via Redbubble.
  - ALIA will be hosting a booth at Fair Day on 18 February with ALIA staff selling merchandise.
  - ALIA volunteers and staff will be walking in the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade on 2 March.
- Adult literacy programs to be a topic for a future meeting with Libraries Tasmania giving an overview. Many current public library literacy programs focus on children's literacy. It is recognised that greater emphasis is needed to be placed on lifting adult literacy levels for adults.
- NAPCAN representatives attended the meeting and presented an overview of the work of the organisation.
  - Opportunities for collaboration put forward include:
    - campaigns, such as National Child Protection Week which will run 1 – 7 September this year.
    - development of resources for libraries which have on ongoing life.
    - events and webinars which relate specifically to the role of libraries in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
  - APLA is committed to working with NAPCAN to explore a partnership and with libraries serving as an important protective factor in the prevention of child abuse.

- ACSL representative attended the meeting and gave an overview of the establishment of ACSL and its aims.
  - School and public library sectors have many shared goals around literacy, lifelong learning, access to information etc.
  - Some current issues where collaboration between sectors is possible are:
    - book challenges (ALIA already has public library and school library reps on its Freedom to read group) and work around First Nations collection description.
    - Collaboration could also be extended to the academic library sector.
- Dr Jane Garner presented an update on two CSU library research projects.
  - Designing for Communities with Communities: Co-designing Public Libraries.
    - This project aims to gain an understanding of 'what works' in library co-design with a view to creating an online guide or toolkit for libraries and a framework for future library design projects.
  - Public Libraries and People Experiencing Homelessness.
    - The goal of this project is to understand the role of in the lives of people experiencing homelessness, the attitudes and experiences of library staff and library visitors who support and share spaces with this group.
    - Dr Garner has found that public libraries need guidance on interacting with people experiencing homelessness and will be working with ALIA to write policies to assist library services across Australia to formulate and/or amend existing policies.
    - It was also discovered that staff are insufficiently prepared for the reality of public library work and that further guidance, education and management involvement is required to address staff wellbeing.
- Continued discussion around the revision of the Public Library Standards and Guidelines, reporting, statistics, use of SDGs.
  - ALIA to prepare a survey for APLA members to complete to inform this work.
- APLA website to be updated and redesigned.