



APLA meeting, Monday 25 March 2024

The online meeting included representatives from all jurisdictions except for SA.

Guests

- Fiona Wright & Annette Rose, NBN
- Iona Johnson, Libraries Tasmania

Key Messages

- ALIA
 - [ALIA's new Strategic Plan 2024-26](#) has been released.
 - Freedom to read - New member only resource for dealing with challenges and protests '**Prepare, Respond, Reflect and Renew**'. The focus throughout is on ensuring community safety, protecting staff wellbeing and continuing delivery of essential library services. The document sets the context, outlines the sector ethics and values that ground our response.
 - ALIA is undertaking a review of institutional membership to ensure it continues to be relevant and represents value for money. A working group has been formed with representatives from each sector. The public library members are Nine Sprake (Brisbane City) and Dionne Collins (City of Port Adelaide Enfield).
 - The partnership with the Department of Health and Aged Care around the 40th anniversary of Medicare is underway. 60 library branches (ALIA members) have taken up the offer to host pop-up displays as part of the first round of the EOI. A second round will be opened up after Easter for an additional 50 library branches (ALIA membership preferred but not essential).
- Public Library Statistics
 - ALIA has received collected data from NSLA which will be shaped into a report for APLA's consideration.
 - To present a national message, it was agreed that state-specific commentaries be amalgamated into a national report.
- National Library resources
 - NLA has released a suite of [resources around legal deposit](#) to increase awareness of requirements. This includes a pdf [fact sheet](#) that can be distributed in your library. due to the growth in self publishing.
- Research paper
 - A [CSU Research paper](#) has been published which addresses the importance of regional libraries in their communities and the challenges faced.
- Libraries Tasmania Adult Literacy Service
 - A presentation from Iona Johnson, Libraries Tasmania on the Adult Literacy Service. Topics included:

- NBN – School Student Broadband Initiative
 - The School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) is designed to boost education opportunities and narrow the digital divide. This Australian Government initiative is providing up to 30,000 eligible families with school age children with no internet at home access to free nbn® until 31 December 2025. Parents/carers with school students can contact the National Referral Centre to check whether they qualify. If families sign up asap - this offer means close to 2 school years of free internet until 31 December 2025.
 - To see whether you qualify call the friendly team at the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm AEDT), or visit the [website](#).
 - APLA is exploring ways of partnering with NBN to promote this initiative to those in the community who are eligible.