



## **APLA meeting, Monday 11 November 2024**

The in person meeting in Coffs Harbour and online included representatives from all jurisdictions except for ACT and TAS.

### **Key Messages from meeting and State/Territory reports**

#### **National Early Years Forum – 22 May 2025**

The Forum will be a face to face session at the State Library Queensland and will be presented in partnership with NSLA, ALIA and the Queensland Brain Institute.

This will be a national forum to explore the role of public libraries in supporting strong foundations in the early years and identifying how best to measure and communicate the impact. It will also be a place to hear and understand the latest brain research and its application in a public library context, identify opportunities for national cross sector collaboration, sharing to increase our impact, and learn from each other's practice and build a national evidence based approach to libraries championing childhood. Case studies will be presented along with initiatives delivered by and with libraries across Australia followed by roundtable discussions.

#### **Public Library Statistics Report 2022-23**

The Public Library Statistics Report 2022-23 was released in October. It has been widely shared and will continue to be used in various submissions and reports. The document assists in advocating for more funding and in demonstrating the impact of libraries at State and National levels.

#### **ALIA**

[ALIA Information Online](#) program has been released and registrations are now open for 1, 2 or 3 days (18-20 March 2025). Also note the great value for institutional registrations for multiple or unlimited attendees.

*The Truck Cat*, by Deborah Frenkel and Danny Snell and published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing, was announced as the [NSS Book](#) for 2025 to be held on 21 May at 12pm (AEST). Registration is open and merchandise is available. This year ALIA is partnering with LIANZA, the Copyright Agency and MOAD.

The [ALIA Code of Ethics for the Australian library and information services workforce](#) was launched on 16 October 2024. ALIA will be holding workshops in the new year on how to use the Code of Ethics. Please circulate the Code of Ethics through your networks and encourage people to include it in the induction process for new staff.

The Department of Health and Aged Care/ALIA partnership projects – Aged Care Hubs and Medicare 40 Year Anniversary Displays - have concluded. The Department is very pleased with the responses from participating libraries.

## **ACT**

In August, Libraries ACT joined the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative joining other ACT Government areas. Dedicated staff members undertook relevant training to have a better understanding of hidden disabilities and how to best support to our community.

Libraries ACT hosted Jan Richards to deliver IFLA's Measurement, Evaluation and Demonstrating the Impact of Library Services workshops.

## **NSW**

Staff training to improve interactions with community members has been well received, including Legal Answers, Drug Ino, Homeless and Difficult Customers.

Many science week activities held across the state including talks on First Nations Astronomy, Planetarium, VR sets.

Building underway of new Yamba Library & Community Centre and Dorrigo Library undergoing refurbishment.

Gunnedah Library was successful in winning the [RH Dougherty award](#) with Book paper folding in Fairy Tale.

## **NT**

LANT collections have now been moved to the new site. A new permanent exhibition is in development and will focus on First Nations stories and truth-telling. Staff will relocate in January, with the opening still planned for mid-February.

LANT has arranged free training on 28-29 November for the NT library sector, which will be presented by Jan Richards consulting to deliver IFLA's Measurement, Evaluation and Demonstrating the Impact of Library Services workshops.

## **QLD**

QPLA has partnered with State Library of Queensland to offer a six-month leadership program to library staff across Queensland. The application process was very competitive with 42 applications to fill 14 places in the program. The program launched at the IFLA Futures Summit in September with the program wrapping at QPLA Conference 2025 26-28 March in Townsville.

## **SA**

PLSA elections in November will be followed by strategic planning workshop to outline priorities for advocacy, leadership and engagement with the network.

PLSA will also consider the advocacy needed for library funding through the Collaboration Agreement in 2026, between the State Government, Libraries Board Local Government Association and the State Government.

OneCard 2.0 project has commenced. The project will guide next phase of the One Card Network and major contract renewal for the Library Management System and Materials Contract due in the next two years.

*Introduction to AI* fortnightly webinars hosted by PLS and *Personal Safety De-escalation training* being offered through a Council partnership hosting regular training, with 130 trained and continuing sessions in 2025.

## **TAS**

The Hon. Jo Palmer MLC, Minister for Education, officially opened the refurbished Ground Floor in the State Library and Archives Building at 91 Murray St Hobart on 14 October, improving the accessibility and user experience of the building. The new name (State Library and Archives of Tasmania) is now visible on building signage and our digital channels, including the website.

A brand-new Training and Development Hub will improve the access for Libraries Tasmania staff to training opportunities and resources, with a special focus on mandatory training, such as Child Safeguarding.

State Library and Archives Fellowships 2025 - Building on the success of the inaugural research and creative fellowships in 2024, Libraries Tasmania has offered an expanded program in 2025, adding a new Aboriginal Fellowship and two new Writing Fellowships (in collaboration with Island Magazine). The Fellowship program aims to appeal to a broader range of researchers, writers and creatives who are interested in using the State Library and Archives of Tasmania collections for study and research. The Fellowships will be announced in late November.

Open Library Access Pilot Program - Devonport Library and Penguin Library will be the pilot sites for an Open Access Library trial, due to begin in early 2025. Open Access libraries will allow Libraries Tasmania members to visit these library sites outside regular staffed hours.

## **VIC**

Received funding from the State Government to put together research and an advocacy piece around libraries as community hubs.

## **WA**

PLWA have developed a training session for responding to book challenges which will take place at State Library of Western Australia on 27 November, with follow up training is being scheduled in February 2025. Challenges are also being made to State Library of WA regarding online resources.

WALGA budget campaign 'The West at its best' is focusing on the library budget request as a priority. PLWA's advocacy will target social media and identify champions to help spread the word. Work is also being undertaken to develop a petition and Exec members will make contact with local members to advocate for the funding.