



## APLA meeting, Thursday 13 March 2025

The online meeting included representatives from all jurisdictions except for NT & NSW.

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

#### ALIA

##### Upcoming Public Library Program Opportunities

The Department of Health and Aged Care/ALIA partnership is into its third year. ALIA will be calling for EOIs for 30 public libraries to host *Aged Care Reform Hubs* in the second half of 2025.

The Australian Digital Health Agency (DHA) have approached ALIA to engage in a partnership to deliver a program across public libraries where community members can seek assistance with managing their *My Health Record*. ALIA will be running an EOI process for submissions from interested library services.

ALIA and the Australian Citizen Science Association have been awarded a grant to support public libraries to establish *Citizen Science Corners* and workshops with scientists. 100 participating libraries will receive \$200 to purchase a kit and \$450 to support activities. ALIA will be sending out an EOI by the end of March.

ALIA is developing a partnership with *Kids Alive Do the Five* to promote water safety via public libraries in September. Interested libraries will be able to register with ALIA and then receive a resource pack with activity plans, promotional material and a welcome video from founder Laurie Lawrence.

ALIA and Creative Australia will be collaborating to offer promotional materials for the *Prime Minister's Literary Awards*. Public libraries will have an opportunity to submit an EOI to host a winning author at their library with all travel and accommodation paid. A limited number of book club packs and packs of the winning books will also be available to libraries.

ABC Radio and ALIA are partnering to create opportunities for public libraries to be a key part of the inaugural *Top 100 Books of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* as voted by listeners. Voting will commence at the end of August with the Top 100 list to be announced in October. Information packs with posters and social media tiles will be provided to libraries and there will be opportunities for interviews on local radio to talk about popular titles in your library or your recommendations.

##### LIS Workforce Framework Review

ALIA has commenced the 12 month review of the *ALIA Skills, Knowledge and Ethics Framework for the LIS Workforce*. Feedback will be collected through two surveys, with feedback also accepted via email or over the phone for members who do not find the survey method appropriate to their needs. The consultation period concludes on 24 March.

## **Library and Information Week 2025**

*Library and Information Week* will take place from 28 July to 3 August 2025. The theme will be about reading and the many types of literacies fostered by our sector. The full theme and program of events to be launched in the next few weeks.

### **ACT**

Libraries ACT is exploring an interlibrary loan arrangement with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council. This collaboration aims to expand access to a wider range of resources, enhance the borrowing experience with more options, and foster stronger community ties between the regions.

Libraries ACT is implementing an upgrade to the Spydus library management system, scheduled for the end of March 2025. This upgrade will introduce new functionalities and improve discoverability and user experience on the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) for library users.

The most borrowed books for 2024 were announced with Trent Dalton's *Lola in the Mirror* the most popular book overall.

Tuggeranong Library is providing the venue for a human library event organised by *Communities@Work*. It will be held on Saturday 29 March 2025.

Civic Library is hosting an exhibition by the Migrant Women's Art Group. It opened in alignment with the National Multicultural Festival.

### **NT**

The reopening of LANT at the new Danala site is scheduled for the end of March. The service model is changing significantly with the addition of memberships, lending services and new children's spaces, programs and collections.

LANT is partnering with Children's Discovery and Questacon to deliver training and activity kits throughout the NT in April and May, centred around their *Little-Big Bang Discovery Program*. Initial training will be delivered in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin, with remote areas to follow at a later date

### **QLD**

QPLA has been supporting libraries during the challenging weather conditions and flooding in the south-east of the State. There have been no reports of major impacts on library infrastructure.

The QPLA Conference will be held in Townsville, commencing with workshops and activities on Tuesday 25 March. This will be followed by the Townsville Citylibraries' *Festival of Stories* event on 28-29 March with a full program of workshops and activities.

### **SA**

Libraries SA, Public Library Services and the State Library of SA are developing a shared statewide platform for digitised local and family history resources.

The PLSA Conference will be held on 8-9 May with the theme *From Ideas to Impact: Libraries Driving Change*.

*Library Lovers Day* brought creative promotions across the State with fun events, date with a book, high teas and book chats and a hive of activity across social media.

*Adelaide Writers' Week Live Streaming* took place 3-6 March with over 45 libraries, 25 community centres and retirement villages, and 5 schools participating.

## **TAS**

From February 2025, Libraries Tasmania increased opening hours in 15 public libraries. This has included the first Sunday openings for Hobart and Launceston libraries, and Saturday openings in New Norfolk, George Town/Kinimathatakinta and Smithton.

The new service, Open Library Access was officially launched at Penguin Library on 24 January. Open Library Access membership allows library members to visit from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm daily, including weekends and public holidays. The second pilot site, Devonport Library, is set to launch in April 2025.

Libraries Tasmania completed its first *Big Summer Read*. 1,325 Tasmanians registered on the Read Books Website with 6,123 books read and reviewed and 236 young people completing the 10 book challenge.

In February, Libraries Tasmania celebrated 50 years of Burnie Library. Burnie Library is one of 13 libraries in the North West Region with over 6,900 library members. Opening in 1975, the library continues to provide much needed access, services, and resources to the local community.

## **VIC**

PLV is partnering with Aspect – Autism Spectrum Australia to engage libraries in a Federal Government funded, Statewide initiative called *Autism Friendly Melbourne*.

PLV is part of the organising committee for the National Forum in Brisbane in May 2025, which sees SLQ joining with the Queensland Brain Institute to explore the impact public libraries can have in supporting strong foundations in the early years.

The *Big Summer Read 2024-25* has concluded with more than 26,000 registrations and over 145,000 items read across Victoria.

The *Love your Library in Your Language* campaign will be run again this year during Diversity Week/Harmony Day.

## **WA**

Publication of the *Public Library Impact Stories* is in progress with a view to providing to libraries as an advocacy tool.

Libraries across the State have been celebrating 20 years of *Better Beginnings* with birthday parties held during Story Time sessions in the past month.