



Australian Library and
Information Association

APLA meeting, Thursday 28 August 2025

The in person/online meeting included representatives from all jurisdictions.

Key Messages from meeting and State/Territory reports

ALIA

Australian Media Literacy Alliance became an incorporated association in early August. The founding members are ALIA, ABC, SBS, QUT, WSU, ACMI and NFSA. The Museum of Australian Democracy is not a member but will stay closely involved.

The incorporation of AMLA is a significant step in its maturation as a collaboration and demonstrates the value the members place on the work of the Alliance. It is hoped that AMLA will work closely with the Department of Infrastructure to design and deliver Australia's first national media literacy strategy.

Australia Reads also became a company in mid-August. The founding members of the company limited by guarantee are ALIA, Australian Publishers Association, Australian Society of Authors, BookPeople and the Copyright Agency. Australia Reads is looking forward to working closely with Writing Australia to deliver a national reading strategy.

Prime Minister's Literary Awards – the shortlist was announced on 12 August and the winners will be announced on 29 September. ALIA provided 10 free book packs of the shortlisted titles to ALIA Institutional members who submitted an entry. Another EOI will go out in October/November seeking applications from libraries to host a winning author with travel and accommodation expenses covered by Creative Australia as well as \$10,000 fund for the event. The visits will occur in early 2026.

[Respect and Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Cultures and Country in Australian Libraries](#) - This foundational course is a collaboration between ALIA and the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). It covers the core domain of the LIS Workforce Framework and counts for 15 CPD hours. It is online and self paced - \$500 for members and \$665 for non-members.

Occupational violence research - ALIA APLA have joined with CAUL to support Associate Professor Jane Garner's research project into occupational violence in Australian public and university libraries. An Advisory Committee with representatives from ALIA, APLA and CAUL is working with Jane on the survey which you can expect to receive in October.

ACT

[The report](#) from Libraries ACT Independent Working Group (IWG) has been made public.

Key priority for Access Canberra is to keep ACT libraries open.

This is a difficult time for everyone at Libraries ACT.

NSW

- **Issues** - Financial sustainability challenges are currently being faced by a number of Councils and there is concern about the potential impact this may have on library services. Contributing to this is the ongoing cost shifting from State and Federal Government eg clients sent to libraries to assist with Service NSW and Centrelink services. See Local Government NSW cost shifting report [here](#).
- **Professional development** – identified needs include crowd control, resilience, programming, digital technologies, local studies, collection preservation.
- **Advocacy** - Presenting to high school students on careers in Local Government and specifically Libraries.
- **Partnerships** – NSWPLA have entered into a three year partnership with Department of Communities and Justice to provide funding for 100 libraries to participate in Grandparents Day celebrations.

NT

- LANT is commencing for the first time, a process of collection valuation in partnership with our finance team and MAGNT (Museum and Art Gallery of the NT) colleagues.
- LANT's Leadership Team will be commencing Rachael Robertson's [Extreme Leadership Course](#) together through in an effort to improve our strategic planning, and future-proof LANT.
- LANT has been nominated as a finalist in the 2025 Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in the Public Sector, for the excellent work of our Collection Development Team and First Nations staff on ICIP Protocols
- The [NT Literary Awards shortlist](#) has been announced. The awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday 24th September at 5:30pm at LANT Danala in Darwin and will also be livestreamed in Alice Springs.
- Taminmin Community Library has relocated to new premises at Coolalinga Shopping Centre and has been renamed Litchfield Community Library. This move is the culmination of a long process over many years to separate the public library from joint use on the premises of Taminmin Secondary College in Humpty Doo. Creating a new fit-for purpose, accessible, standalone library for the greater benefit of the Litchfield Community is a significant achievement and outcome and a great effort by all involved.

QLD

- **The QPLA Executive Board members 2025-2026 are:**
President - Nicole Hunt, Townsville Citylibraries
President Elect/Vice-President – Colleen Bentzen, Logan Libraries
Secretary – Laney Robinson, City of Moreton Bay
Treasurer – Sharon Uthmann, Ipswich Libraries
First Nations Regional Rep – Douglas Graham, Woorabinda Aboriginal Council
Regional Rep – Central QLD – Peta Browne, Bundaberg Libraries
Regional Rep – North QLD – Prin Stroppe, Mareeba Libraries
Regional Rep – South West QLD – Melanie Mills, Balonne Shire Council
Regional Rep – South East QLD – Teresa Kohne, Sunshine Coast Libraries
Executive Officer – Adele Casey
- Following on from the first successful program, applications for the second round of the joint *QPLA/SLQ Library Leaders Program* are now open for all library staff.
- **ALIA / QPLA Mentoring Program** - 2025 has 4 mentors and 4 mentees registered with 8 Queensland representatives in the mentoring program.

- QPLA provided **feedback** to the State Library of Queensland regarding the **Funding Methodology**. The feedback was directly from the feedback received from the members. Overall, the members were not supportive of the methodology changes proposed.
- The QPLA LEaD Professional Development 2025 will be held 14-15 October 2025 at SLQ. Tuesday workshops will be an intimate setting to gain the most from the training, followed by a full day on Wednesday with the focus on de-escalation skills development. Both days also offer curated tours of either Brisbane Portrait Prize or Culture Love exhibition. Wednesday also includes the QPLA AGM and SLQ Workshop.

SA

- **PLSA Strategic review** - Public Libraries SA is commencing a strategic review to better align the role of PLSA to represent the network effectively. It will consider strategic priorities, governance, committees, structure and clarifying decision making and the alignment with Public Library Services roles
- **Professional development via** Public Library Services includes AI Awareness, Adult Media Literacy training, Google Super Searchers advanced techniques and fact checking, Inclusive Literacy Practice to upskill early childhood practitioners with CALD families, Yellaka Warra Kaurna Language course to learn language and protocols with Elder Uncle Tamaru and Jess Shaw from Gowrie SA in October
- **Firstival** - During July public libraries across the state encouraged the community to visit or reconnect with their library and try something for the first time. Over 350 events were held reaching 40,000 people and high media coverage across radio, TV and print media to advocate for the services libraries provide and connect with new users.
- **Spindle** - The Spindle platform using Recollect software for access to digital local history collection has been endorsed for statewide implementation.
- **Yitpi Yartapuultiku** - Port Adelaide Enfield Council and libraries in partnership with Kaurna Elders and community have been collaborators in developing a new Aboriginal Cultural Centre located in the heart of Port Adelaide. Yitpi Yartapuultiku is a place of cultural sharing, learning, and connection.
[Yitpi Yartapuultiku, Aboriginal Cultural Centre | Participate PAE](#)
[Creating an Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Port Adelaide](#)

TAS

- **End of Financial Year data** indicates:
 - Public library membership and program attendance increasing
 - eLibrary loans continuing to make up a greater proportion of the lending service
 - Adult literacy learner numbers continuing to decrease
 - Satisfaction survey - 96% satisfaction rate (highest achieved).
- The Public Library Network has a strong focus on:
 - Improving Prison Library services
 - Focus on Youth engagement, activities, spaces and places
 - Two new Open Library Access sites
 - Improving visibility in towns through new signage, street signage etc.
- **LMS** – New Library Management system implemented across the state.
- **Professional development** –
 - ALIA Public Library Proficiency course

- De-escalation training to handle increasing number of incidents
- Focus on Safeguarding training and planning for all staff, Safeguarding is the state's Strategy to protect and look after young people. [Keeping children safe through safeguarding - Department for Education, Children and Young People](#)

VIC

- **Funding** - PLV has submitted a proposal to the Victorian Government for funding to support a new suite of statewide projects, including a project to enhance early years literacy in Victoria's public libraries.
- **Statistics** - Preliminary data from PLV's Annual Survey shows library memberships are up by 5.4%, meaning over 100,000 Victorians became new library members in 2024-25. eResources downloads are up nearly 16% for the same period. Both results point strongly to the impact of our eResources marketing campaign
- **Advocacy** - The Minister for Local Government announced in May the appointment of [Victoria's inaugural Public Libraries Ambassador](#), award-winning children's author Andrea Rowe. Andrea brings a lifelong passion for libraries and brilliant communication skills to the role. She is helping to raise the profile of public libraries among MPs and councilors as well as in the community
- **Warm Winter Reads** - Our fourth annual campaign ends on 31 August. This year, Libraries Tasmania joined in the challenge.

WA

- **Funding** – Local level agreements between the Library Board and Local Councils are going out for consultation in February 2026.
- **Awards** – The Library Board Awards for Innovation and Collaboration winners were City of Melville for their response to book challenges and Mount Barker Public Library, in the Shire of Plantagenet, for 'Reading for Generations'. The project supports children's early literacy development with two key aims: encouraging Hazara families to read with their children, and to build community pride and support for Noongar language development.

The F A Sharr Award was presented to Brooke Donabie. Brooke champions graphic novels as a powerful tool for improving literacy and fostering a love of reading, emphasising their underappreciated literary merit and capacity to enhance critical thinking.

The Kay Poustie Scholarship, jointly funded by PLWA and the State Library was awarded to Jesse Lee from the City of Stirling. Jesse's research proposal will explore how the integration of AI and Generative AI solutions in public libraries has the potential to enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of library services for visually impaired users.

- **Advocacy** - PLWA have developed a statewide schedule to have libraries provide their good news stories in order to continue the work that has been done over the last couple of years. These are now being shared with multiple agencies and communicated through their various newsletters and publications as well as on PLWA social media. It is hoped this will provide a more diverse range of content for use in publicity and advocacy.