



NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAA Review

In this issue of *InCite* is a notice calling for submissions to the Corporate Plan and Review Committee and a separate copy of the notice is also included as an insert.

The Corporate Plan and Review Committee would like to obtain wide-ranging comment from both members of the LAA and others, and from those working in information related fields, e.g. research officers, information officers, etc.

The purpose of the insert is to publicise the LAA review as widely as possible and the Committee would like to encourage the distribution of the notice and its display on noticeboards.

The success of this comprehensive review depends on widespread input and the Corporate Plan and Review Committee would very much like to receive your views, so please advise us of your intention to do so.

Membership Form

As a separate insert with this issue of *InCite* is an invitation to membership of the LAA. The suggestion to include a form with *InCite* came from one of our members and is a very welcome one. We hope that you will pass it on to someone who would like to join the LAA. All professional organisations are continually hoping to increase their membership and the LAA is no different. If you are passing on the form don't forget to point out that the fees for 1985 have been lowered by 5% and, of course, we would particularly welcome new members' views on the LAA review.

Review of the Taxation System

The Government has called for submissions from the public in relation to its review of the taxation system. The Association is currently preparing a submission to present to this review and there is no doubt that this could be one of the Association's highest lobbying priorities in 1985. The introduction of a value added tax will certainly be considered and this would apply to library materials unless an exemption was obtained. Hopefully, our success in the sales tax on books campaign will assist us in preparing a high-powered case against a value added tax on library materials.

Government Submissions

Did you know that in the last three months the LAA has put forward submissions to the Senate Standing Committee on Science, Technology and the Environment's Inquiry into High Technology and Employment, the National Film and Sound Archive and the Senate Select Committee on Video Material? As well, it has had correspondence on sales tax on books and an inquiry into the arts. All these inquiries have a potential impact on our profession and it is important that the view of the Association is expressed. Copies of submissions are available from Head Office for interested parties.

Jenny Adams

School librarians — *InCite* would like to include more information about what's happening in the world of School Librarianship. Put your point of view across — send your article or news item to the Publications Officer at the LAA.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Corporate Plan and Review Committee would welcome submissions, both written and in person, from all interested parties in relation to its review of the Library Association of Australia.

The Corporate Plan and Review Committee intends to provide the opportunity for interested parties to present their views in person and would ask that those parties wishing to do so advise the Executive Director of this intention *no later than 31 March 1985* in order that dates for hearings may be set. Hearings will be held on an Australia-wide basis, and will be scheduled as far as possible to fit in with the movements of members of the Committee. Hopefully, this will include some time outside working hours.

Would ACT members note that hearings have been set down for ACT for 26 and 27 March 1985 to allow these to fit in with the March meeting of General Council, however there may also be a further opportunity for ACT parties to present submissions at a later date.

It would be very helpful if submissions to hearings were preceded by a written submission (however brief) which should reach the Committee at least two weeks prior to the hearing. Other written submissions must reach the Committee *no later than 31 August 1985*.

The terms of reference of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee are listed below, however, interested parties should not allow the present structure of the LAA to prejudice their thinking.

Terms of Reference

1. To prepare a corporate plan for the Association for the years up to and including 1989.
2. To review the present corporate structure and functions of the Association against the corporate plan and to advise General Council on the ability of the existing corporate structure and functions including the deployment of the Association's labour, financial and capital resources to meet the objectives of the Association, and
3. where appropriate, to recommend to General Council alternative corporate structures and/or functions which would better meet the objectives of the Association.

The terms of reference highlight a number of areas to be examined by the Committee:

- (i) *Aims and objectives of the Association*
The starting point of any review of the structure of the Association must be its published aims and objectives together with some assessment of the extent to which the published aims and objectives are being met. Attention must also be paid to the possibility that aims and objectives, other than those publicly acknowledged, are being pursued. Are the aims and objectives of the LAA still relevant? Are they appropriate to the Association? Should they be wider — e.g. to include broader groups involved in librarianship or people involved in other information handling activities? Should the Association change its name?
- (ii) *Functions*
The functions of the Association, such as the publications program, the Board of Education and various services to members, need to be reviewed to determine whether structural changes are required to improve delivery of existing services and to meet new functional needs. The way in which the LAA operates should be considered — its governance and geographical/political structure. Some of the Association's services/activities which should be considered are: publications, continuing education, course recognition, conferences, industrial information, divisional activities/developing networks of contacts, political and professional lobbying. Should these services be retained? Improved? Changed? Are there other services which the Association could provide? What priorities should be given to these services?
- (iii) *Membership*
The present membership structure and fee levels must be examined and strategies for recruiting and retaining membership must be considered.
- (iv) *Role of the Executive Director/Executive Committee*
Traditionally, the Executive Director has been seen as the servant of the Association charged with carrying out the policies determined by General Council and the Executive Committee. We believe that other models, such as the ALA, where the Executive Director has a more dynamic role in the affairs of the Association, should be investigated.

Central to the review is a concentration of issues of principle. Matters such as finance, budgeting and level of fees should be viewed in this context. Comments on these matters are invited also.

Any enquiries should be directed to the Executive Director of the LAA (02) 692 9233.

Executive Director,
Library Association of Australia,
376 Jones Street,
ULTIMO NSW 2007

BACKSETS OF JOURNALS in Medicine and the Life Sciences available for sale. If interested please request list from Acquisitions Librarian, Monash University Library, Clayton, Vic. 3168.

A TEACHER-LIBRARIAN'S NEWSLETTER

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