

## NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Corporate Plan & Review

The CPR Committee has asked that all persons who filled in the questionnaire be thanked for doing so.

While the response rate was lower than was hoped for, those received provided the Committee with some very valuable comment.

The Committee recognised that the questionnaire was very long and detailed and required considerable effort to complete. In order to canvass the range of issues that had been covered at the corporate plan hearings however, it was necessary to survey with such complexity. Once again, thank you for your contribution.

It now seems likely that rather than distributing the Report of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee with the last issue of *InCite* for the year, as reported in *InCite* no. 17, 11 October, it will be distributed as a separate mailing in late December or early January.

### Inquiry into New Technology and Employment

Following the input of a written submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology Inquiry into New Technology and Employment, the Association was asked to appear at the Committee's hearings in Sydney. The Executive Director and the Past President appeared on behalf of the Association and a whole range of issues relating to new technology and employment in the library and information field were discussed. These included the impact of not only computers but satellites and laser discs as well as the emergence of the information professional. The importance of the need for a National Information Plan was stressed and

the Association was able to provide the Committee with its National Information Policy document.

### Australian Information Technology Council

The Executive Committee has recommended to General Council that the Association become one of the founding members of a newly formed Australian Information Technology Council. The Association has been holding discussions with the Institution of Engineers, Australia, the Institute of Radio and Electronics Engineers, the Telecommunications Society and the Australian Computer Society on the formation of such a Council and it has been agreed by all bodies that its formation would be advantageous to all concerned.

The founding members have agreed that there is a need for co-operation and collaboration in the rapidly expanding and diverse field of information technology and the aim of the body will be to share knowledge, make use of overseas speakers, run joint continuing education activities, seminars, etc. and possibly produce some joint publications. All the groups agreed that it was essential that the individual bodies continued to maintain their own high profiles with their own membership.

### International Year of Peace

Following the August meeting of General Council the Association has submitted an application to the Department of Foreign Affairs for funding for a project to establish International Year of Peace resource centres in public libraries in 1986. The Association has been advised by the IYP Secretariat that the project is one of only two at present under consideration by the Department. Further information on the proposal can be obtained from Sue Phillips at LAA House.

### Freedom of information

Charges for requests under the Freedom of Information Act were increased substantially from 1 July 1985. At its August meeting, Council resolved to protest to the Prime Minister and Attorney-General at these increases, and the Government's decision to cease publicity for FOI. (See report in *InCite* vol. 6 no 15, 13 September.) Responses have been received from the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General defending the Government's actions and indicating that libraries will be considered as distribution centres for FOI information, should publicity resume.

Meanwhile Senator Alan Missen has moved in the Senate that the Regulations introducing the new charges be disallowed, and it is understood that he has the support of the Opposition Party and the Democrats. Further developments will be reported in *InCite*.

### Maternity leave

As I will be on maternity leave until the end of February 1986 I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the best for 1986. I look forward to returning to the LAA in the New Year.

*Jenny Adams*  
Executive Director

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