

Power through information

Nerida Clarke announces a new national network of information officers, delivering state-of-the-art information to Federal government departments and agencies

Librarians and information service providers in the Federal government are working together in the newly-established Federal Libraries Information Network (FLIN) to ensure that government officers have the best possible access to information resources and technology.

Previously, Federal government libraries and information services have operated informal networks and have been involved to some extent in formal networks for specific activities such as cataloguing.

Forty-five librarians and information services personnel, representing Federal Government Departments and Statutory Authorities, have now agreed to form the Federal Libraries Information Network (FLIN).

FLIN will be modelled on the U.S. Federal Library and Information Centre Committee (FLICC) which was established in 1965 in recognition of the need for cooperation and concerted action among federal libraries

and information services. FLICC now represents one thousand federal agency libraries and information centres in the USA.

FLIN will be affiliated with the Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services. It aims to:

- represent the interests and concerns of member libraries and information services in wider library and government forums;
- develop and implement cooperative services and resource sharing activities among Federal libraries and information services;
- serve as a forum to consider issues and policies, needs and priorities and effective and efficient use of Federal library and information resources and services;
- promote access to information by government agencies and their staff, research and development in the application of new technologies and information systems and improvements in the management of Feder-

al libraries and information services;

- provide expert advisory services to members of FLIN and other organisations in such areas as cost-effective procurement of library materials, systems and services, standards for library management and strategic planning and performance measurement marketing of library and information services;
- foster and facilitate the dissemination of government publications to the wider community.

The FLIN committee is: Chair, Judith Miller; Deputy Chair, Roxanne Missingham; Committee, Nerida Clarke and Merrilyn Chilvers.

The combined purchasing power of Federal government libraries and information services is over 35 million dollars per annum. This gives FLIN an opportunity to negotiate favourable conditions for the supply of information resources, services and technology.

Four FLIN Task Forces have been established. These are a Copyright Issues Task Force (Coordinator Dorothy Harris), a Network/Database Issues Task Force (Coordinator Kay Winter), a Collection Development Policy Issues Task Force (Coordinator John Bartholomaeus) and a Lobbying Issues Task Force (Coordinator Ann Rutledge).

Membership of FLIN is open to any library or information service funded in whole or substantial part from Federal funds. The membership fee is \$75 a year. ■

More Vital Link updates

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p.13 Cataloguers Section New South Wales President: Ms Judy Engall, New Fax: (02) 543 9294;

p.15 Education for Library and Information Services National and Victorian Groups Secretary: Mr Morris Bellamy, Melbourne City Libraries, 12-18 Meyers Place, Melbourne VIC 3000. Ph: (03) 650 5622; Fax: (03) 650 1112 ■

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