

Survey on culture and recreation funding

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to compile data on culture and recreation funding from the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments across Australia. In September the ABS surveyed, by mail questionnaire, approximately 200 local government councils to obtain estimates on local government funding, whilst funding from the State and Commonwealth Governments was obtained through a combination of a direct approach to relevant agencies and by accessing budget papers.

The information sought will involve the total amount spent by councils and departments on the funding of culture and recreation organisations such as libraries, museums and those involved in music and the performing arts. The classifications to be used are defined by the culture/leisure statistics framework developed under the auspices of the Cultural Ministers Council. The data relates to funding during the 1994-95 financial year.

The collection of data is being conducted on behalf of the Statistical Advisory Group to the Cultural Ministers Council and the Statistical Working Group to the Sport and Recreation Ministers Council. The results of the survey will be used to examine the level of funding across the various sectors of the culture and recreation industries by the three levels of government. They will also monitor changes in funding over time and

assist in the planning and allocation of funding for future programs.

On the basis of previous experience with a similar survey conducted in 1993 and of recent field

testing of the questionnaire, no significant adverse reaction from providers is expected.

The ABS expects to release results from the collection by May 1996. ■

Unicorns, mice, men and the prize

On 10 August a happy group of ALIA TAFE librarians gathered for an evening of excitement and exploration at the Ambassador Restaurant of Ryde College of TAFE. The excitement centred around the announcement of the winner of the Conference capers prize. Kathy Wilk (pictured) announced that Jennifer Vaughan, librarian at Wagga Wagga Campus Library, Riverina Institute of TAFE had won the registration fee to attend the national ALIA TAFE section library conference in Brisbane.

After a sumptuous three course meal, Aileen Stevenson, head librarian of the University of Western Sydney - Hawksbury, led those gathered on an exploration through fabled lands of unicorns, mice and men, to consider the impact of mateship on women's access to top management positions in Australia. She emphasised the importance of lobbying and creating networks with our colleagues and the staff and students of our institutions to ensure that women break these barriers, achieve their full potential and enhance the standing of our profession.



Pictured right is Kathy Wilk, TAFE NSW branch treasurer, at the ALIA information stand which the branch sets up at each of its functions

The ALIA TAFE section, NSW group is looking forward to two more stimulating evenings this year. Watch the *Events* column for details or contact Cathey Shepherd on (02) 830 1372 or Glenda Pryor on (02) 839 1245.

*Cathey Shepherd, President,
ALIA TAFE section NSW branch*

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