ALIA's submission quoted in telecommunications report

A report on the AUSTEL inquiry into the telecommunications needs of access seekers and providers has been released. The original request for submissions, released in early October, sought views on the key requirements of access seekers and consumers and the types of consultation processes which should be adopted by a newly formulated Telecommunications Access Forum (TAF) to ensure that the needs of access seekers and consumers would be taken into account during the development of an access code and the determination of declared services.

The Association's submission to this inquiry argued that equity issues in the access to communications services should be a central consideration when developing regulatory regimes. The report quoted comments made in the ALIA submission on the identification of declared services, in particular the need to become outcome- rather than process-focused.

The report noted that in order to best represent the stakeholders in telecommunications, the Telecommunications Access Forum would need to have comprehensive representation, encompass appropriate consultation processes and time frames in its constitution and structure and require an independent chair.

ALIA's submission to the inquiry can be found on ALIAnet, at http://www.alia. org.au/submission.html. ∎

Parliamentary library network

Australian parliamentary libraries have embraced the medium of the Internet to acquire and disseminate information to assist Members, and the public generally. The respective libraries have contributed in varying degrees to the setting up of home pages and web sites, with the Commonwealth in particular taking the leading role in organising the impressive web site for the national Parliament.

Parliamentary librarians are members of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Australasia, and meet regularly to discuss common goals, procedures and concerns, and to promote improved co-operation between constituent libraries for the benefit of their clients. The Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Australasia recently established its own web site to facilitate communication and provide information about the association. This can be accessed at http://www.gil.com.au/ ~nickb/apla.html. Many of the parliamentary libraries also are members of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, which also has a website at http://www.citec.com. au/iflaparl. Both of these sites have been constructed and are maintained by the Queensland Parliamentary Library. ∎