

New format for National Advisory Congress

At the 2004 ALIA National Policy Congress a recommendation was made to the ALIA Board of Directors that the name of the Congress be changed to the National Advisory Congress (NAC). This recommendation aimed to more accurately reflect the current nature of the Congress, which is to provide a forum through which the Board can discuss with members topical issues, policy and planning. A special motion to amend ALIA's Constitution by changing the name of the Congress was carried at the ALIA AGM in May.

The Board has adopted a new format for the Congress. Informal regional meetings will be held across Australia in as many locations as practicable. All financial personal and institutional members will be invited to attend these meetings and all will be NAC delegates. With this decision the Board has moved from previous models, as there will no longer be group delegates.

Regional meetings will aim to be informal and provide ample opportunity for members to participate in discussion on policy, planning and any topical issues relevant to the Association. Where possible, a director will facilitate each of the regional meetings supported by a member of ALIA National Office staff.

The regional meetings will run for up to two hours. Included in the meetings will be a brief information session about a specific ALIA service or highlights of members-only information on the ALIA website. A longer session covering the issues on the NAC program for regional meetings will follow. Any background context for different parts of the program will be given during the meeting. The final component of the meeting will be social, with refreshments provided along with the opportunity for members to network.

Regional meetings will be held from early August to mid-October. Please check the events pages for your state/territory [<http://alia.org.au/events/>] for your nearest meeting.


As has been the case for the past two years, the 2005 Congress will focus on celebrating the successes of the Association, its groups and members. The topics for this year's program for regional meetings include:

- ALIA Stars program
- proposed model for ALIA elections: discussion of the proposed changes to the Constitution to simplify the system for the election of directors (see *inCite*, June 2005, p13 for further information)
- workforce planning and education: an opportunity for members to raise local issues relating to education, employment and workplace needs and to contribute to developing ALIA's advocacy agenda in workforce planning.

All regional meetings are invited to nominate one person to attend the Congress meeting at ALIA National Office in November of each year. The NAC will bring together representatives from the regional meetings, invited self-nominating groups, and policy and advisory groups to further discuss issues from the regional meetings as well as any new issues. This year the NAC will be held in Canberra at ALIA House on 25–26 November.

If you would like further information about the NAC, go to <http://alia.org.au/governance/nac/> or contact Georgina Dale, ph 02 6215 8229; e-mail georgina.dale@alia.org.au.

Georgina Dale, manager, member services and groups liaison



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