Community Information Strategies Australia

Community Information Strategies Australia Inc is a South Australian non-government organisation, commonly known as CISA (pronounced kisser!). We receive funding from the South Australian Department for the Arts as part of its responsibility for library and information services. We are proud to be in our 25th year of operation as a provider of community information resources and support in our state. Our main resources are Infosearch (http://www.infosearchweb.com), a statewide community information resource for SA; Eventspool (http://www.eventspool.com), a free web-based events service that allows anyone in the community to post events information on the web and promote their activities; the CommunIT project (http://www.communit.info) supporting the community sector in its use of technology. We hold an annual Connecting Up Conference focusing on the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) in the community sector (http://connectingup.cisa.asn.au).

CISA places a high value on information management skills and has always employed qualified library and information management professionals.

CISA has a history of strong links with the library sector and continues to work closely with public libraries as key providers of information and enablers of information access for the community. We impart information management skills to our community information colleagues through training and support. We regularly visit country colleagues to overcome the disadvantage that can result from distance. We also host quarterly meetings of ALIA Community Information Australia Network, providing an opportunity for community information practitioners to meet, share information and learn about new developments. More information, including reports of recent meetings, is available at http://www.cisa.asn.au >> Links >> Community Information Australia Network.

Recently, in partnership with Lifeline Australia, CISA initiated a national summit to discuss the possibility of developing standards for community services information management to enable more effective national practice and resource

sharing. The summit was held in Canberra in February 2006. It was attended by over 40 participants, who represented commonwealth and state government departments and a range of non-government organisations from around Australia. This meeting identified reduction in duplication, better consumer access to community information, more effective referrals and more cost-effective operation as outcomes we should pursue.

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