

The Australian Council of Professions



What is a Profession?

A profession is a disciplined group of individuals who adhere to ethical standards and who hold themselves out as, and are accepted by the public as possessing special knowledge and skills in a widely recognised body of learning derived from research, education, and training at a high level, and who are prepared to apply this knowledge and exercise these skills in the interest of others.

Professions Australia is a national organisation of professional associations. These associations represent more than 350 000 professionals across Australia and cover the professions in the broad areas of: the built environment; business services; human and animal health; and resources.

We exist to champion the importance of the professions to the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of Australia. We seek to achieve a strong, collective and national voice in the interests of organisations representing professionals.

We provide a forum for members to interact with their peers, information on current issues and influence as the national peak body for communicating with government on issues of concern to the professions. These issues include

- Skills supply and demand
- Higher education (being the main source of professionals in Australia)
- Skilled migration (being the other main source of professionals in Australia)
- Accreditation of courses
- Registration of professionals
- Professional standards including ethics
- Professional liability
- Globalisation

Ethics is one of the more important issues with which we deal.

Professions Australia has also applied for and been granted funds from the Australia/Japan Foundation to help finance exchanges between the professionals in both countries. The first two were aimed at young professionals from both countries and these exchanges have been successful in broadening the knowledge of the young professionals about the other country and in establishing networks. The last exchange was between Presidents and/or CEO's of member associations which also proved successful and should prove to be of assistance should we organise further young professional exchanges.

The value of belonging to a professional association and Professions Australia lies in different areas for different members. In some cases the value for members relates to recognition of their being a profession and the opportunity to participate, and being seen to participate, in forums with other larger and older professions. Their voice becomes more audible on the issues that are of importance to them. However, at the end of the day, in members' organisations, what members get out of it relates to what they are looking for and what they put into it.

Malcolm Farrow
Chief Executive Officer, Professions Australia
professions@bigpond.com



IFLA Call for Nominations for Section Standing Committees

IFLA's professional programme is divided into Sections. Each Section is governed by an elected Standing Committee consisting of professionals with expertise and an interest in the field of the Section.

IFLA is calling for nominations for Standing Committee members for the period August 2011 to August 2015. Current ALIA representatives can renominate for a second term. ALIA is a member of 10 IFLA sections and it is only for these sections that ALIA members can nominate as an ALIA representative. If you nominate for a committee you must be able to attend the World Library and Information Congress each year during your term.

Interested members are asked to submit a 100 word CV outlining their suitability and interest in an IFLA Section Standing Committee to Lisa Strickland, ALIA Executive Support Officer, lisa.strickland@alia.org.au

The deadline for submission to ALIA is 1 December 2010.

ALIA is a member of the following sections:

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| 08. Public Libraries | 26. Asia & Oceania |
| 15. Document Delivery & Resource Sharing | 34. Management & Marketing |
| 21. Information Technology | 40. Management of Library Associations |
| 23. Education & Training | 42. Information Literacy |
| 24. Library Theory & Research | 43. Continuing Professional Development & Workplace Learning |

Visit <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/external/> for links to each Section's website, and for a list of current ALIA representatives on these committees. Any ALIA members nominating for these committees must read all documents located at <http://www.ifla.org/en/officers-corner/key-documents>

Call for nominations for President-elect and Member of the IFLA Governing Board

If you have enquiries about this nomination process, please contact Sue Hutley, sue.hutley@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8215. <http://www.ifla.org/en/governing-board/elections>