

NATIONAL COURSE REVIEW FOR LIBRARY, INFORMATION, AND CULTURAL SERVICES

The review for the Library, Information, and Cultural Services sector training package was a collaborative process between industry, educators and curriculum managers, and designers. Linda Arnold from IBSA (Innovation and Business Skills Australia) managed the project; Angela Murray, the project consultant, visited each state and territory and listened to the needs of industry and educators, then created the package with the help of many people who wrote and edited unit documents for the project within the national guidelines for course accreditation. An IBIS world comprehensive survey of the industry was also undertaken to inform and guide the revision, as was the ALTC project, *Re-conceptualising and re-positioning Australian library and information science education*, national review by Professor Helen Partridge.

The national reference group for the Revised Library Technician program met several times, by both teleconference and in person, to engage, review, and discuss the content and structure of the course. Unlike previous courses which focused almost exclusively on libraries, the reference group consisted of a wide cross section of the Cultural Community Service Skills sector.

They were Graham Oades, Service Skills SA; Margaret Birtley, Heritage and Tourism, MCG; Glynis Bramley-Moore, Library Training Services Australia; John Brooks, ACACA; Megan Allen, DEEWR; John Dunton, Skills Victoria; Marian Hoy, RIM Professionals Australasia; Janetta Mascilongo, Australian Library and Information Association; Greg McLean, Australian Services Union; Bernice Murphy, Museums Australia; Sam Nicolosi, Creative Industry Skills Council; Margaret Paterson, Australia Society of Archivists; Ian Rogers, Victoria University; Yvonne Webb, CHARTTES Training Advisory Council; and Derek Whitehead, Cultural Sector Advisory Committee.

ALIA was ably and strongly represented at all stages of consultation and review by past-President Derek Whitehead, and Janetta Mascilongo, former Director: Professional Services for ALIA.

The package was endorsed in late December 2011 and is now being delivered across Australia. At the lower levels, the names reflect the generic content and flavour it was deemed the packages required: Certificate II and III in Information and Cultural Services, and Certificate IV in Library, Information, and Cultural Services. Lastly, the Diploma of Library and Information Services was prescribed by ALIA for a specific set of electives required for students to gain registration as a technician member.

The intent of the creators in developing the new suite of qualifications was to move the training in the GLARM sector, (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Records, and Museums) closer together as the requirements of this rapidly changing sector and its workforce evolves. The benefits to students is the portability of a qualification within and across these closely related entities in the sector.

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