

NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES



Mary Greenfield

Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999

The discussion about the Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999 continues ALIA, in conjunction with the ALIA National Special Libraries Section, has posted a document which concisely describes what is at issue in the Bill. It can

be found on the ALIA site at www.alia.org.au. Members are strongly encouraged to write to their local federal member and other federal members as law libraries, especially those in law firms, stand to be adversely affected by the issues in the Bill

Conference Scholarship Programme

At the Biennial General Meeting in Hobart, the Committee passed a motion that the ALLG establish a biennial scholarship to the BIALL Conference and Exhibition, commencing in 2000. Notices will be posted on the ANZ list, and distributed by the State Convenors in the near future. The notice will also appear in the next issue of the *Australian Law Librarian*.

Incorporation

Legal opinions are currently being sought regarding the issue of incorporation. Christine Johnston, the Queensland State Convenor, will be collating the opinions and compiling a document which will address all of the issues for the National Group and the State Divisions. It is hoped that the issue will be resolved by mid 2000 following the organisation of a vote by the membership.

GST

Another important issue to be considered is the GST and its implications for the National and State Divisions. I will be seeking an opinion on this issue as a matter of urgency as all details will need to be finalised well before its introduction in July 2000.

On a positive note

As of November 1999, the ALLG has been in existence for 30 years. It has grown from a handful of people in NSW to an organisation with approximately 800 members. In the last few years, the profile of the ALLG has been raised considerably, and moves are afoot to expand its profile internationally.

I will be writing an article about the Group for the *International Journal of Legal Information*. I also hope to increase ALLG representation at international conferences. A formal liaison was made recently with the Legal Division of the Special Libraries Association in the US, which means that we have a reciprocal arrangement to attend each others conferences at members' rates. Links will also be established between our websites. These sorts of arrangements will be made with other relevant international organisations in an effort to establish a strong professional network which will be of benefit to ALLG members.

I believe that the ALLG, through the efforts of its many dedicated members, will continue to raise its profile, and to become involved with many organisations, both nationally and internationally.

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