

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Background

The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee is the principal advisory body to the National Library for the Libraries Australia service. Its recommendations carry the greatest possible weight consistent with the constraints of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, and the Director-General's responsibilities under this Act and the National Library Act 1960.

The library sector representatives on the Committee act as a link for information and strategies between the National Library and sector bodies such as the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL), National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) and state-based public library consortia.

The Committee normally meets face to face twice per year, once in conjunction with the annual Libraries Australia Forum in an Australian capital city and once at the National Library in Canberra. In some years a third meeting may be held by teleconference. The National Library arranges and meets all travel and accommodation costs for Committee members.

Review

The Director-General has reviewed the guidelines for membership of the Committee to ensure appropriate sectoral representation. One of the new arrangements will be to appoint each Committee member for a three year term, whether the Committee member is elected by Libraries Australia member libraries, nominated by their sector, or appointed by the Director-General. Reasonable continuity is gained by ensuring that the terms are not synchronised.

The National Library will ensure that the Committee memberships nominated by CAUL and NSLA are referred back to those bodies for review every three years.

Three members of the Committee are appointed by the Director-General to represent the views of other sectors such as special libraries or public libraries. From 2010, these Committee members will also serve for three year terms. This may result in some changes for current long-serving members.

There is no barrier to any Committee member serving for more than one term.

Conclusion

Membership of the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee provides an opportunity to provide advice on the strategic directions of the Libraries Australia service. The Committee members perform an important role in advising on the challenges and future developments in library collection management.

The updated Committee membership guidelines are aimed at ensuring a balance between continuity and the opportunity to involve a wide range of expertise from different library sectors.

The National Library always welcomes other forms of advisory contribution to the Libraries Australia service from all of its member libraries, through attendance at the Libraries Australia Forum, state and territory user group meetings, and peak bodies' events as well as its online community spaces.

Recommendation

That the Committee notes the paper.

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