



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

STRETCH TARGETS FOR AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES 2020-2030

September 2021



Australian Library and Information Association



AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY ALLIANCE



AGLIN

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES INFORMATION NETWORK



ALIA IFLA



ALIA SCHOOLS



National and State Libraries Australia



How we arrived here

The following stretch targets have resulted from a detailed process of refinement taking place over a 12-month period.



ALIA House SDG roundtable
September 2019



Initial report published
October 2019



Survey of ALIA Members
November/December 2019



Feedback from other
organisations January/March 2020



Analysis to decide which goals were within the remit of libraries and library and information professionals; the goals where we could make a contribution, and those which were an important focus for advocacy but outside our direct control



10 draft stretch targets produced
September 2020, revised, refined
and confirmed July 2021

Key

ALIA	Australian Library and Information Association
ALACC	Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition
APLA	Australian Public Library Alliance (part of ALIA)
BSA	Blue Shield Australia
CAUL	Council of Australian University Librarians
NSLA	National and State Libraries Australasia

With thanks to the participants at the September 2019 roundtable, library leaders, ALIA Members and partner organisations – and special thanks to the ALIA International Relations Advisory Committee which has overseen this work.

10 stretch targets for libraries 2020-2030

The following stretch targets are proposed, together with activities and measures which will allow progress to be tracked. Some activities are new, others are an extension of existing initiatives. An interim report is planned for 2025 and a final report for 2030. These reports will enable us to provide the impact stories alongside the statistics to demonstrate our work towards the goals.



Target 1

Libraries' contribution to literacy in all its forms is recognised and libraries are embedded in national strategies for early language and literacy, digital inclusion and media literacy.

SDG alignment

SDG 4.6 Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

EXTENSION

Advocacy to progress three national strategies, within which the role of libraries is recognised and embedded.

- Early language and literacy, through active membership of the National Early Language and Literacy Coalition, with a target date of December 2021 for a draft strategy, endorsed by the early childhood sector.
- Media literacy, through active membership of the Australian Media Literacy Alliance, with a target date of December 2022 for a strategy to be in place with the endorsement of the Australian Government.
- A digital inclusion strategy adopted by the Australian Government.

Advocacy for the role and value of school libraries, in partnership with state-based associations and other stakeholders, resulting in increased investment in well resourced school libraries, staffed by qualified professionals.

REPORTING

Progress towards publication and implementation of national strategies.
Advocacy achievements to be included in 2025 and 2030 reports.



Lead

ALIA
APLA
NSLA

Access to knowledge



Target 2

Adoption of open access practices and principles enables Australians to benefit from scientific knowledge, by informing further research in the area, or benefitting as the end user.

SDG alignment

SDG 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

NEW

CAUL negotiates with publishers to achieve Publish and Read (PAR) transformative agreements that provide increased open access.

REPORTING

Increasing the extent of research from Australia that is openly accessible, sourced from CAUL repositories content statistics. Establishing a base in 2021-22, reporting in 2025 and 2030.



Lead

CAUL

Access to knowledge



Target 3

Achieve copyright reform to enable Australians to have certainty and flexibility to access library collections.

SDG alignment

SDG 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

EXTENSION Advocacy leads to reforms to copyright to increase equitable access to knowledge.
Industry agreements support increased access to stories and knowledge.

REPORTING Report in 2021-22 summarising the achievements of the previous decade; progress reports in 2025 and 2030.



Lead
ALACC

Lead
ALIA

Equitable access



Target 4

All Australians have access to public library services online and 90% have access to a physical public library service point.

SDG alignment

SDG 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

NEW Map public library physical service points relative to population centres. Develop methodology and publish the starting point in 2021-22; report in 2025 and 2030.

REPORTING Report on the provision of online access to public library services – collections, programs, information, technology, internet connection – as detailed in the *APLA-ALIA Standards and Guidelines for Public Libraries 2021*. Baseline report in 2021, followed by 2025 and 2030 reports to include data about how libraries have adopted a digital-first/digital-by-design approach, including the services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Lead
ALIA
APLA



Target 5

In collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, libraries have adopted practices to ensure management and access to collections and services is culturally informed and respectful.

SDG alignment

SDG 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

EXTENSION	<p>Generate greater awareness among library staff of culturally informed and respectful practice through cultural competency and other forms of training. Carry out a survey of Institutional Members of ALIA in 2025 and 2030 to assess the percentage of library staff who have undertaken relevant training within and beyond NSLA libraries.</p> <p>All libraries acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which they are located and there are 'welcomes' in local Indigenous languages where appropriate.</p>
NEW	<p>Cultural competency becomes a mandatory requirement for professional status as part of the ALIA Professional Pathways initiative by December 2024.</p>
REPORTING	<p>Case studies document activities undertaken to ensure collections and services are made accessible in culturally informed and respectful ways, e.g. cataloguing / metadata, exhibitions and programming. Publish these case studies in the 2025 and 2030 SDG reports.</p>



Lead
ALIA
NSLA



Target 6

ALIA has an open and transparent position on climate change.

SDG alignment

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

NEW	<p>Research commissioned to gain an international perspective on greening libraries – publication target date January 2022.</p> <p>Consultation with ALIA Members and other stakeholders leading to the publication of a position paper in 2022, with further updates as required.</p> <p>ALIA Board statement on climate change published 2022.</p> <p>International Day for Disaster Reduction replaces MayDay as an annual prompt for disaster preparedness in libraries.</p> <p>Guidelines for Australian libraries' environmental sustainability are developed and published 2022-23.</p>
REPORTING	<p>New initiatives are created and improvements in use, reuse and recycling are made and publicised widely, with case studies included in the 2025 and 2030 reports.</p>



Lead
ALIA
BSA



Contribution to health and wellbeing



Target 7

Public libraries are acknowledged as centres for personal development and wellbeing.

SDG alignment

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

REPORTING

Case studies document how libraries have supported personal health and wellbeing, including partnerships with government agencies and in response to times of significant community stress.

Public Libraries Statistical Survey reports on number of library program sessions by program type (Literacy and lifelong learning, Informed and connected citizens, Digital inclusion, Personal development and wellbeing, Stronger and more creative communities, Economic and workforce development). Reporting in 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028 and 2030.



Lead

ALIA
APLA
NSLA

Diversity and gender equality



Target 8

Library workforce, collections and services reflect the diversity of Australia's population and local communities. Asylum seekers and refugees have access to library collections and services which recognise their needs.

SDG alignment

SDG 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

REPORTING

The diversity of the LIS workforce reflects the diversity of the population. Use release of 2021 Census Data to update the *ALIA Workforce Diversity Trend Report 2019* in 2024-25.

Case studies of libraries and their services to diverse communities, including asylum seekers and refugees to be featured in the 2025 and 2030 SDG reports.

NEW

Future iteration of Public Libraries Statistical Survey to include the number of LOTE collection items, which will allow collection diversity to be tracked over time.

Passing of amendments to the Classification Act to facilitate supply of LOTE DVDs and streaming content to public libraries.



Lead

ALIA
APLA
NSLA



Target 9

As a sector we commit to lifelong learning for our own workforce and we provide opportunities for all Australians to pursue lifelong learning.

SDG alignment

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

NEW The ALIA Professional Pathways initiative sees a significant increase in the number of people seeking professional status with ALIA.

REPORTING Number of people participating in the ALIA PD Scheme (annual).
Australian Public Libraries Statistical Survey reports on number of library program sessions by program type (Literacy and lifelong learning, Informed and connected citizens, Digital inclusion, Personal development and wellbeing, Stronger and more creative communities, Economic and workforce development). Reporting in 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028 and 2030.



Lead

ALIA
 APLA
 NSLA



Target 10

Australian Library and Information Sector professionals are actively engaged with libraries and library associations in the region and internationally.

SDG alignment

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Activities, measurement and tracking progress

EXTENSION Colleagues from the region attend conferences and events in Australia, and Australians attend conferences and events in other parts of the region – both physical and online – to develop greater shared understanding and to exchange information and insights.

A continued strong Australian presence at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress – monitor attendance (physical and online) at the Australian caucus.

Australia is represented on IFLA committees and in other aspects of the governance structure – monitor the number and level of representatives in the IFLA governance structure.

REPORTING Examples of active collaboration within the Asia-Pacific region with case studies of engagement by associations, institutions and library and information professionals featured in the 2025 and 2030 reports. These examples could include ALIA MoUs, participation in IFLA regional activities and accreditation of LIS courses outside Australia.



Lead

ALIA
 International
 Relations
 Advisory
 Committee



