**LIASA 2018**

**Inspiring possibilities through knowledge stories and creativity**

**Slide 1 Inspiring possibilities**

**Gum-bah dah-roo** “Gamba daru” [Good Day]

**gum-bah nun-ee gee-ah nin-doo** "gamba ngange gia ngindu" [it is good to see you here]

which is **good day — it is good to see you here** in **Barrungam** — which is the language of the community I grew up on the Darling Downs in Queensland.

Thank you for the invitation to speak

Visit to South Africa for IFLA WLIC

**Slide 2 Today’s presentation (outline)**

SDGs – thank you to Professor Rocky Ralebipi-Simeli – national librarian – discussion on SDGs and the importance of libraries

Dr Eddy Maepa for examples on the work of National Library of South Africa

Opportunity for libraries to demonstrate how they support goals that the United Nations has set for 2030

Discussion on what ALIA has being doing to increase awareness

Also discuss some of the activities of the State Library of Queensland – align to the conference theme: agents of community development and social transformation as well as supporting the achievement of the SDGs

**Slide 3 Australian library and information sector**

Key statistics on the sector in Australia

**Slide 4 Queensland – state of Australia**

Has anyone been to Australia?

**Slide 5 Queensland : the facts**

Population is highly concentrated in the south east corner and on the coastal fringes

**Slide 6 Sustainable Development Goals advocacy in Australia**

On **25 September 2015**, the **193** countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda titled "*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".* There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals – they are broad and somewhat independent, and each goals has a list of targets to achieve.

It is important to note, is that the **17 goals apply to all countries** – both developed and developing.

**The sustainability of our world is dependent upon us all working together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Libraries can play a **critical role in the achievement of the goals**. Today we will explore how libraries are contributing to the SDGs, but also what you and your organisation can do to make a vital contribution.

**We all have a part to play!**

**Slide 7 Sustainable Development Goals**

You are probably already very familiar with the SDGs.

But, do you know that there are four **focus** SDGs in 2019. They are Goals **4, 8, 10 and 16,** which are **education**, **employment**, **inequality** and **peaceful societies**.

These are key goals and topics for libraries. We have a great opportunity to highlight what we are doing.

We need to use this chance to draw attention to the work of libraries, especially on **education and employment**, wherever they are being discussed.

The challenge is to create the space to do it – many other organisations and actors will be trying to do the same. Building our arguments, building alliances, and building awareness will be a priority.

The issue is slightly different on **access to information**. We need to be able to explain how we see access to information.

Not just as access to public – governmental – information, such as budgets, statements of interest or briefings. This is of course important. But we should be thinking about **public access to information**.

**Any information that is important, that can change lives**. Because in the end, people don’t care where information comes from, as long as it makes a difference.

**Slide 8 How the SDGs relate to forward thinking of your library and information service or organisation?**

In July 2017, ALIA asked its Members how the SDGs featured in their plans. About half felt they related to the forward thinking of their library and 20% weren’t aware of the goals.

We set out to

1. **raise awareness** within our own sector and
2. **to inform government and other stakeholders** about the role of libraries in delivering the SDGs.

**Slide 9 Three conversation starters**

ALIA used three conversation starters to frame our discussions with government.

1. **Libraries help deliver the SDG targets** – universal literacy is one of the 2030 targets. We can provide examples of the work that libraries do to improve literacy
2. **Libraries can help report against the SDGs** – libraries have statistics on their key activities that they perform to achieve literacy. Each year there are 121,000 storytime sessions in Australian libraries reaching 3.1million participants
3. **Libraries can help engage the public** – there are 11,000 physical libraries, 4000 websites and there are 12.9million users of libraries. This is about 50 percent of the Australian population

**Slide 10 ALIA Australian Government and Professions Australia briefing**

ALIA also initiated discussions with government and other stakeholders.

For example, we held an event at ALIA House on 23 March 2017 to **introduce other professional bodies** to the SDGs.

Pictured left to right: **ALIA President** Patricia Genat, **Professions Australia CEO** Liz Lang, Jennefer Nicholson, **DFAT**’s Sean Batten, and Gail Mulcair, **Board Member, Professions Australia**, CEO, Speech Pathology Australia.

Jennefer Nicholson – past Secretary General of IFLA

Demonstrated that ALIA is aware of the importance of the SDGs and willing to work with government to achieve targets

**Slide 11 Evidence gathering: Australian libraries support the SDGs**

ALIA then gathered stories about **how libraries in Australia are supporting the SDGs.**

We worked with the **Australian Public Library Alliance** (part of ALIA) and **National and State Libraries Australia** to find **case studies** to support 10 of the 17 goals.

Helped librarians to understand the goals and provided examples

Powerful advocacy tool

**Slide 12 Report : Australian libraries support the SDGs**

The report was published on our website – you can access it there

Hard copies were **posted** to every Australian members of parliament

**Demonstrated what libraries do every day of the week**

Linked that work to the SDGs – we made it easy for the politicians, policy makers and bureaucrats to make the links

**Slide 13 Australian government academic and civil society**

The publication of the report was **tangible evidence** of the role that libraries could play in supporting the SDGs and led to us being invited to a high level summit in Melbourne earlier this year, with approximately 250 government, academia and civil society invited guests.

The invitation was acknowledgment that libraries could be a player in the achievement of the SDGs

**Slide 14 National Voluntary Review**

The report was also our **pitch** to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for inclusion in Australia’s National Voluntary Review.

**Slide 15 IFLA International Advocacy Program global convening**

IFLA is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. Essentially, is the global voice of the library and information profession. And, it is has used that voice **to advocate at the UN for the vital contribution that libraries can make to the achievement of the SDGs.**

IFLA has been actively involved with the creation of the UN 2030 Agenda, **advocating for the inclusion of access to information, safeguarding of cultural heritage, universal literacy, and access to information and communication technologies (ICT) in the framework.**

IFLA’s consistent position is that **access to information is essential in achieving the SDGs**, and that libraries are not only key partners for governments but are already contributing to progress towards the achievement of the 17 Goals.

For this reason, IFLA [launched the International Advocacy Programme (IAP)](https://www.ifla.org/node/11048?og=7409) in 2016, a capacity-building program designed to promote and support the role libraries can play in the planning and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Our meeting in New York was an opportunity to raise the profile of the work that libraries are doing. Following our presentations UN officials had a better understanding.

**Slide 16 ALIA SDG Summit**

And in July we held a highly successful Summit for library colleagues.

Travel grants from IFLA enables us to bring colleagues from the Asia Pacific to the Summit.

An outcome of the Summit is:

1. a **toolkit for libraries** to run their own strategic workshops;
2. a set of actions for libraries and
3. a set of further actions for the library association.

These tools are available on the ALIA website for others to use. They supplement the tools available from IFLA.

The aim was for delegates to return to their workplace with an **understanding of the SDGs**,

the **role that libraries** can play,

and **action-ready ideas** to share with colleagues.

**Slide 17 Goals Summit**

**How you can be part of the Sustainable Development Goals movement**

**1. Find out more about the SDGs and libraries**

Links to background reading on the reading on the [UN](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/), [IFLA](https://www.ifla.org/libraries-development)  and [ALIA](https://www.alia.org.au/advocacy-and-campaigns/think-global-act-local) websites. These web pages will explain the genesis of the Sustainable Development Goals and how libraries around the world and in Australia are contributing to their delivery.

**2.  Hold an SDG workshop for your library team**

This is a list of ideas for how to promote SDGs in libraries.

[SDG ideas for libraries](https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/SDG%20ideas%20for%20libraries.pdf)

[SDG actions for ALIA](https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/SDG%20actions%20for%20ALIA.pdf)

There are some workshop templates to help you host your own event, including the workshop resources and presentations prepared by Dr Gillian Hallam for the ALIA SDG Summit. You can use some of the SDG ideas (above) as conversation-starters.

**3. Generate your own stories**

You will find plenty of stories about how your library is supporting the SDGs and it is relatively easy to produce your own report. You can adapt the ALIA [template](https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/Public%20library%20template%20report.docx) designed for public libraries and use the [IFLA Storytelling Manual](https://www.ifla.org/publications/libraries-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-a-storytelling-manual) as your guide.

**4. Share your stories with the wider library community**

We encouraged members to publish their stories on websites and promote them via social media using the #SDGs hashtag.

You can also upload your stories to the IFLA Library Map of the World..

**5. Advocate for the SDGs in your organisation**

ALIA and the Australian Public Library Alliance put together a simple three-step way for public libraries to show leadership, which can be adopted for other sectors.

So – there are lots of tools available to help you learn more about the SDGs, how you can communicate what libraries are doing, and how you can engage your organisation and stakeholders in the SDGs.

**Slide 18 How Australia is peforming**

Report in July 2018

Australia is performing worse than other developing countries

Australia ranks 37th – sliding from 26. Now behind other countries such as Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States

So – there is work to be done – and libraries have a role to play!

**Slide 19 State Library of Queensland**

State Librarian and CEO – State Library of Queensland

Work that we do – supports the SDGs

**Slide 20 Our vision: Inspiring possibilities through knowledge stories and creativity**

Workshops with staff to develop the vision

Inspiring possibilities – future focussed

Knowledge stories creativity – what we do and what we enable

Athol Williams (plenary speaker) – important to share stories, and there are many untold stories that need to be told.

**Slide 21 Our purpose**

Influenced by the Libraries Act – our guiding legislation

**Slide 22 collecting and preserving a trusted record**

Founded in 1896 – demonstrates our longevity

documentary record of Queensland

Trust – reputation

**Slide 23 encouraging research to deepen the knowledge of Queensland past and present**

Our collections enable our clients to do further research

Deepens our knowledge of both the past and the present – and will also support researchers in the future to understand our past

**Slide 24 interpreting Queensland stories through exhibitions, events, discussion and debate**

Interpretation of collection

Discussion and debate – library as a space that respects diverse view; people feel empowered and secure to discuss issues

**Slide 25 developing an inclusive library service, addressing diverse needs, strengthening opportunities for expression of ideas and fostering the appreciation of difference**

Our policies support inclusion

Our services support diverse needs and promote tolerance

**Slide 26 providing access to collections and services in a range of formats and channels, so they are available to all regardless of geographic location**

Technology – digitisation has been an enabler

Our role is to serve all Queenslanders – regional and remote Queensland

Tell Queensland’s story to the world

**Slide 27 recognising the unique knowledge and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working with communities to ensure their history and culture is preserved**

**Slide 28 advocating for public libraries and partnering with local government to provide Queenslanders with the opportunities to participate fully in the economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of society**

**Slide 29 SDG Goal 10 – reduced inequalities**

Not all communities and individuals are equal in Australian

Aboriginal communities represent the most disadvantaged communities

Health, education, income, literacy, well being

But also higher levels of violence and incarceration

Work with Aboriginal Councils to improve library services – access to information, literacy, address digital inclusion

**Slide 30 Palm Island and Our People**

Case study – working with the Palm Island Aboriginal Council

Something we know at State Library of Queensland is that history is be **complicated**.

Layered.

Endlessly interpreted.

It can also be **hard to hear**. The knowledge and stories we preserve and share are defined by our history, our landscape and our people.

Our collections often tell a history that many **do not know**.

The **Palm Island & Our People** showcase in kuril dhagun marks the centenary of the **first forced placement** of people on Palm Island.

Almost 4000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were placed there between 1918 and 1971.

The impact of colonisation is evident in their name — the Bwgcolman [pron BOOG-A-MEN] people — means “many tribes, one people”.

They represent more than **70 tribal groups** from right throughout Queensland, including the Torres Strait Islands and into the Northern Territory.

Their history has many dark and challenging themes.

This **centenary** provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge and share all of this history.

And it allows us the privilege of collaborating with the **Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council** and community to present this important story.

**Slide 30 Cr Alf Lacey, Mayor of Palm Island**

**Mayor Alf Lacey** says this year of recognition tells the story of a community that wants to **create a strong future.**

I hope you find it **thought-provoking** and inspiring, and I encourage you to invite others to visit kuril dhagun, both at State Library and online, so as many people as possible can learn more about this unique chapter in Queensland’s history.

**Slide 31 Nunuckal and Bwolgaman dancers**

Celebrating and sharing culture

Proud of their traditions – increased understanding

**Slide 32 Showcase – Palm Island and Our People**

Community proud to share their stories

But also sharing within their communities

Bringing together community members

**Slide 33 SDG Goal 4 – quality education**

Goal 4 – Quality education

Target related to Literacy: *By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy*

**Slide 34 First 5 Forever logo**

Program to improve literacy rates in Queensland

**Slide 35 What is First 5 Forever?**

**Slide 36 90% brain development and first educator**

The program is built on mounting evidence that the early years are crucial with 90% of brain development occurring in the first five years and that parents and carers have the most important influence on their child’s lifelong language and literacy outcomes.

**Slide 37 Early literacy in libraries, parks and pools**

The funding has allowed libraries to innovate and deliver inclusive family friendly activities not just in their children’s spaces but in popup tents in parks, at the local pool, even the local hardware store.

They’re happening in remote outposts on tiny islands and in large bustling city libraries. They are truly inclusive, welcoming everyone in the village – bouncing babies, energetic toddlers, mums, dads, brothers and sisters, foster and step parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles.

**Slide 38 Logan – Dirty dinosaur story telling**

**Dirty Dinosaur mud play event at Logan Garden**s.  The event excited a crowd of over 600  children/families throughout the day.  The focus was on the importance of parent and child interaction as the families went about the various mud missions.  The themed event had a literacy focus as at each mission there were oversized pages of the book” I’m a Dirty Dinosaur” and all families were encouraged to play out the actions from the story book as they went about their fun.  The missions also included muddy fun such as, mud mountain, what’s the time dirty dinosaur, mud soccer, mud-pie bakery, to mention a few.

**Slide 39 Video – little moments, big impact**

**Slide 40 SDG – we can leverage**

First of all, four **focus** SDGs in 2019 are **4, 8, 10 and 16.** You will soon know by heart that these are **education**, **employment**, **inequality** and **peaceful societies**.

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