



Te Rau Herenga O Aotearoa | Library and Information Association of New Zealand

Hon Barbara Edmonds
Minister of Internal Affairs and Pacific Peoples

March 6, 2023

Tālofa lava, lau afioga i le tama'ita'i ministā Barbara Edmonds. Fa'amalō le soifua manuia ma le lagi e mamā.

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Internal Affairs and Pacific Peoples and Associate Minister for Cyclone Recovery.

We are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the current environment of the library and information sector in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Secondly, we would like to introduce our organisation Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa, the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA).

[LIANZA](#) is your main point of contact for the library and information sector. Our association has provided leadership to the wider library and information profession for over 122 years. With a strong national network, active member communities and volunteer base, an established profile, and strong international connections, LIANZA spans all parts of the diverse library and information sector. This includes public, school, tertiary, health, prison, tertiary, special libraries and information services.

LIANZA has worked in partnership with [Te Rōpū Whakahaui](#), the professional body supporting kaimahi Māori in libraries, for over 25 years. LIANZA also maintains a strong relationship with Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa the National Library of New Zealand. We have strong links to the wider galleries, archives, museums, marae, iwi and records (GLAMMIR) sector.

We are the organisation to approach to connect with libraries and library and information professionals and the only non-government organisation spanning the whole library and information sector.

We have provided more information for our meeting on the next page. We look forward to meeting with you.

Ma le fa'aaloalo tele, soifua

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Taunga".

Kim Taunga
LIANZA President

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Pickering".

Ana Pickering
LIANZA Executive Director

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LIBRARIES IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Libraries are not just places of storytelling, they are hubs within their communities where people come together from every walk of life, at every age; to learn, take part in activities, use tools and connect with others.

From everyday people, the child at storytimes to the veteran who has been coming to the library for 50+ years, to people using special library services in their workplaces, and students using school and tertiary libraries – and everyone in between.

Public, special, school, tertiary, and whare taonga serve and engage with communities across Aotearoa and are trusted places for people to connect with information, knowledge and resources.

CURRENT ISSUES IN THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SECTOR

There are several issues that currently impact the sector that we would like to draw to your attention to and discuss with you at our meeting.

Working alongside Māori to understand how to uphold our Tiriti o Waitangi partnership responsibilities and support Mātauranga Māori

LIANZA has actively promoted bicultural development since we first participated in the Māori Library Service Committee in 1963. We work closely with Te Rōpū Whakahau and within our sector exploring how we can be exemplary Treaty partners.

One aspect of this mahi is that libraries house taonga in their collections. They have a responsibility to partner and build relationships with Māori as kaitiaki who can lead decisions about appropriate access (including repatriation) care, access, digitisation and ownership of taonga within library collections. Many libraries work in partnership with iwi to tell their stories through these taonga.

Indigenisation of libraries and the profession is an important kōrero for us..

Climate change and impacts

The recent floods in Tāmaki Makaurau and Cyclone Gabrielle have affected many communities. Libraries can play an important place for communities in times of crisis, not only as a place to shelter but as information and community support hubs.

For example, in Tāmaki Makaurau last month public libraries played an important role in providing trustworthy information as well as a place to shelter. Librarians were also deployed to use their specific skills to support Auckland Emergency management in the welfare response.

Libraries and information services, like others, were affected by the requirements of the pandemic environment. They provided valuable information to help services better respond to the crisis, aided people to obtain vaccination passes, and supported their communities during this time.

Libraries and librarians will have an important role after the immediate crisis response, as places of social cohesion, community connection and guides to trusted digital and information resources.

Libraries supporting Pacific communities

LIANZA works in partnership with the National Library of New Zealand to support Pacific libraries and library professionals. We support the LIANZA Pasifika Library and Information Management Network. Members work directly with Pacific communities, in Aotearoa and the Pacific Islands, to enhance learning, education, and literacy. Some of this work is conveyed through support of the Ministry for Pacific People's 'Pacific Languages Strategy 2022-2032'.

As a member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) we are exploring ways that the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be used, alongside librarians in the Pacific (Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Guam, Saipan).

We supported Pacific library professionals from Samoa and Aotearoa to present on SDG work at the recent Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Studies Network (DevNet) 2022 conference. We continue to work with libraries to engage and work alongside Pacific peoples and communities.

Sector sustainability

The [New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme](#) led by the National Library was an exciting initiative to help libraries recover from the post-COVID environment and enable innovations in the sector. However, the two-year NZLPP funding was a one-off. Not all the benefits, particularly in relation to digital access and enabling more equitable services for Māori, are sustainable without continued funding. National Library's [Whiria te Tangata](#) programme has been able to continue some of the mahi to ensure long-term sustainability of the library sector.

Digital inclusion and the role that libraries play

Supporting digital inclusion is everyday work in libraries. In early 2020 LIANZA supported the call for a digital inclusion plan submitted by Internet NZ to the Government. Libraries play a unique and important role in bridging the gaps to improve digital inclusion and digital equity.

Libraries' digital response is part of their core role in ensuring equity of access to information and equitable opportunity to participate. This response has been funded almost entirely by local government, with some central government support through the [APNK Network](#) in support of e-government.

LIANZA wants to ensure that libraries can effectively implement strategies to increase digital inclusion in their communities.

Pay equity for library staff

Pay equity and the current situation for library assistants and school librarians is one of the library and information sector's most pressing issues. Lack of pay equity has a flow-on effect on the ability of libraries to provide effective services and their ability to attract and keep staff.

LIANZA has worked with Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi Public Service Association (PSA), Te Hautū Kahurangi Tertiary Education Union (TEU), Te Riu Roa NZEI, to highlight these issues for the sector. We are pleased to see that the [pay equity claim for school librarians](#) has been successful and believe that this will profoundly affect the sector.

Future for Local Government Review

LIANZA welcomes the overall direction of the review report and the five shifts the report identifies. Our submission identified the role of public libraries as critical and effective enablers of community wellbeing, as the heart of community in every community, that should be recognised and supported in all central and local government planning and delivery.

LIANZA makes crucial recommendations in our submission to support the effectiveness of public libraries in their communities. This submission is available [to read here](#).

Review of the Copyright Act

Aotearoa New Zealand is facing a review of the Copyright Act in the coming year with profound implications for libraries, access to knowledge, and the creative economy. The global pandemic and climate change have pushed libraries to increasingly operate in and occupy the digital space. The Copyright Act 1994 has not been reviewed for thirty years and apart from minor tinkering, does not recognise the virtual library or users accessing resources online. Without meaningful and consistent input into the review process, there is every chance that the legislative changes could severely disadvantage libraries. [Read more here](#).

MEETING ATTENDEE LIST

Kim Taunga	LIANZA President (Auckland Council)
Richard Misilei	LIANZA President-elect (Auckland Council)
Ana Pickering	LIANZA Executive Director