



SUBSTANCE ABUSE LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SPECIALISTS
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Dear Sirs:

Recent news of the defunding of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), including the Library and Information Service, comes as a shock to members of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists (SALIS), an international organization. How is it that there continues to be a lack of regard for all of the work and expertise that goes into building collections and information dissemination tools to assist in the prevention of harm and provide objective evidence-based knowledge to those in need?

Under the same predictable news-speak that has been promulgated for a decade with regard to the de-funding of AOD libraries, the Australian government claims financial stress as an excuse to shut down one of the largest AOD (alcohol and other drug) collections in the world. What about the stress that consumes peoples' lives who must live with alcohol and drug problems? Are they not worthy enough to receive the information assistance, so well given by the ADCA group? And it is not only those who suffer who need information. Policy makers, administrators, health care providers, community groups and those who are close to those who suffer, all rely on this organization for assistance.

Jane Shelling, Manager of the ADCA Information Service, is a leader in the AOD information field, as reflected in her recent post as Chair of the SALIS Board of Directors and her active stance on digitization for the AOD field.

The short sightedness of the government's actions will reverberate negatively across the lives of many and push the AOD recovery arena, ten steps back.

On behalf of SALIS,
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