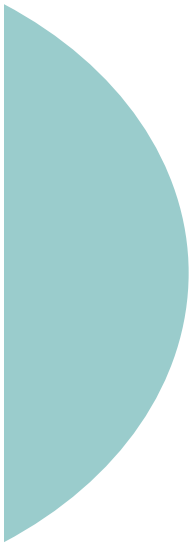
Current trends within the Australian economy & legal industry & its



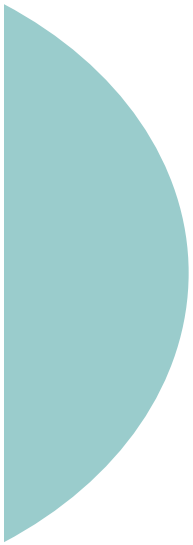
Household debt & interest

Employment

- Ageing population
- Skills shortage

Commercial Property

- Occupancy rates
- Rents
- Space



Australian Legal Industry

- Economic downturn
  - increase in CDR, M&A, corporate restructuring
  - some decrease in banking & finance
- Emerging new practices
  - climate change
  - public sector infrastructure
- Growth in
  - natural resources investment
  - Asian investors
- Law firm mergers
- Office space pressures
- War for talent
- Outsourcing

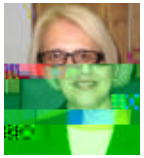
Technology

- Google
- Blogs & Wikis
- RSS Newsfeeds
- Intelligent agents
- FaceBook, Youtube, My Space
- RFID
- Publishers

Australian Law Library Landscape

- ALLA
- Library workforce
  - Demographics
- Education
- Resources
- Emerging roles

ALLA - Australian Law Librarians' Association



- National President: Petal Kinder
- Formed in 1969
- Incorporated on 31 December 2001
- Name change from ALLG to the ALLA in 2007
- 700 + members
- Aim to:
  - promote a network for Australian law librarians
  - provide forums for continuing education
  - advocate on behalf of the interests of law libraries promote access to legal information within the wider community

Library Workforce & Demographics

- Approx 700 law library staff
  - 91% female: 9% male
  - 44% > 45 years or older
  - 45% employed in profession > 16 years
- Employed in
  - law firms 42%
  - government departments: 28%
  - courts: 28%
  - academic institutions: 10%
  - other: 10%

Education

- Course types
- Graduate numbers
  - 1997-2005: 3662 to 2184
- Course content - out of touch
- Educational reforms

Resources

- Physical library space
  - Offsite storage
- Centralisation of resources & services
  - Staffing
- Onsite & offsite clients

Emerging Roles

- Blurring of IT/IM/KM/RM skills & roles
- Natural transition away from traditional search & retrieval activities
- Hunters & gathers of IT applications
- Hybrid library has arrived
  - Engine room practitioners (LTs and LOs)
  - Specialist pods
    - Web 2.0 (IT)
    - Complex or “hard to find” research (Librarian)
    - Competitive Intelligence (Librarian)