

Name: Anonymous

I hold a firm belief that introducing an alternative pathway to professional status for information specialists, which bypasses formal education, would have detrimental consequences for the library and information profession in Australia, as well as undermine the status of information professionals. As a second-generation Australian with a diverse cultural background and experience as a librarian, I am of the opinion that eliminating the requirement for formal education will not enhance the attractiveness of the library profession to individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Instead of removing the educational requirement, a more effective course of action would involve implementing and promoting diverse hiring strategies within libraries. This approach would ensure equal opportunities for individuals from often overlooked talent pools. However, if professional pathways are pursued, it is highly likely that hiring managers will still prioritise candidates with formal qualifications, thereby failing to address the issue of diversity adequately.

Moreover, I strongly believe that de-professionalising a field that is predominantly occupied by women would have negative repercussions on career growth and income. This initiative has the potential to discourage individuals from pursuing a career in the library field, exacerbating the existing lack of diversity. Personally, I am currently seeking to upskill in other professional careers to ensure that my own career growth remains unaffected by this proposed initiative.