

## **Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC)**

### **Minutes**

63rd meeting of the Library Council Sub-committee held on  
Monday 28 May 2012 at Lane Cove Library, 10.30am

#### **Item Discussion**

##### **1 Present**

Jan Richards (Chair, Library Council of NSW), Alex Byrne (State Librarian), Rob Thomas (Library Council of NSW), Andrew Tink (Library Council of NSW), Ian Greenhalgh (PLNSW), Clr Graham Smith (PLNSW), Clr Win Gaffney (NSW MPLA), Jennifer Bice (NSW MPLA), Frances Sims (State Library of NSW), Michelle Mashman (NSW MPLA), Keryl Collard (PLNSW), Clr Julie Hegarty (LGSA), Cameron Morley (State Library of NSW- Minutes)

In attendance: Joyce Azzopardi (State Library of NSW)

##### **Apologies**

Noel Baum (LGSA), Jenny Eakins (LGMA)

##### **2 Review of Previous Minutes and Business Arising**

The minutes of the 62nd meeting held on 19 March 2012, which had been circulated, were confirmed and accepted as a true record.

##### **2.1 Business arising**

Nil

##### **3 Public Library Funding Strategy 2011/12 and 2012/13**

Frances Sims updated the Committee on progress with the implementation of the 2012/13 Funding Strategy

##### *Subsidy/Disability and Geographic Adjustment*

Payments to all 151 eligible local authorities are complete, totalling \$19,875,039.

The Committee was informed that total expenditure on library services by NSW councils for 2010/11 was \$339,822,780, an increase of \$11,469,616 over 2009/10.

##### *Library Development / Country Libraries Fund Grants*

The outcome of the 2011/12 round was announced by the Minister for the Arts on 4 May 2012. Successful councils will receive payments this month.

##### *Revitalising Regional Libraries*

The Committee was informed that all needs assessments for 2011/12 have been completed, and the councils selected for this financial year are receiving their payments.

It was noted that the needs assessment process has been extremely useful in identifying projects that will assist libraries to improve against the Standards and Guidelines. At each library the \$16,000 grant will be allocated to one or two projects, however a list of other potential areas of need have been identified. A summary of the 2011/12 program will be prepared listing the identified needs that were able to be addressed with the funding, as well as those not able to be addressed.

The State Library team was congratulated on conducting the needs assessments within a short time frame.

*2012/13*

As advised at the PLCC meeting of 19 March, preliminary NSW population figures for 30 June 2011 indicated that an estimated \$200,000 would be required to meet the cost of Subsidy/DGA in 2012/13.

Cameron Morley advised that on 30 March the ABS released its updated NSW population figures for 30 June 2011 with a breakdown by Local Government Area. As set out in the Library Regulation 2010 Clause 19, these are the figures used to calculate payments for the ensuing year.

The ABS figures indicate that the NSW population increased by 69,591 over 30 June 2010.

On this population figure an additional \$128,744 will be required to meet the \$1.85 subsidy in 2012/13. The DGA also has a per capita component which increases the funds required to \$180,169.

If recurrent funding is not increased in 2012/13, population growth will dictate that a further \$180,169 will need to be redirected from within the Grants and Subsidies to pay the Subsidy/DGA. This will result in the Library Development Grants funding being reduced to \$549,996, if the other components are unchanged. The Committee noted that if the attrition of the grants program is not addressed there will be less capacity for libraries to undertake innovative projects and a negative effect on the extra council investment that is leveraged by the grants.

The Committee noted that 2012/13 is the final year of the 5 year Country Libraries Fund. \$2M will be available to country councils through the Country Libraries Fund Grants program.

In addition 2012/13 is year 2 of the Revitalising Regional Libraries / Wireless Hotspots funding that the Government committed in 2011. \$500,000 will be available for the Revitalising Grants and \$500,000 will be allocated for the Hotspots program.

The State Budget will be handed down on 12 June 2012.

#### **4 Library Development / Country Libraries Fund Grants**

The Minister for the Arts the Hon George Souris MP announced the 2011/12 Library Development Grants / Country Libraries Fund Grants on 3 May 2012.

Feedback was sought from the Committee on the Grant Guidelines for the next round.

It was noted that for 2011/12 the Grants were split into two pools on the unanimous recommendation of the Committee:

- \$730,166 for the Library development Grants, available to Sydney Metropolitan Councils
- \$2,000,000 for the Country Libraries Fund Grants, available to rural and regional councils

For 2012/13 it was agreed that guideline options would be considered following the State Budget announcement out of session.

#### **5 Joint Association Meetings / PLCC Funding Working Group**

The Committee noted that two joint meetings of the NSW Metropolitan Libraries Association, Public Libraries NSW and the State Library of NSW have occurred since the previous PLCC meeting.

These meetings have secured agreement from the Associations to work cooperatively on representations to the Government on public library funding matters. A Memorandum of Understanding on joint activities was considered at the meeting of 23 April 2012.

The MOU includes the following clauses:

Each party acknowledges that the agreed position on funding for the NSW public library network is the position submitted by the Library Council of NSW to the Minister for the Arts.

Representatives of PLNSW and NSW MPLA (together with the LGSA and the LGMA) sit on the Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC) which provides advice to the Library Council of NSW on the funding requirements of the NSW public library network, and thus have input to recommendations to the Library Council and, hence, the agreed position.

Any proposals concerning public library funding or related matters will be submitted for discussion at an appropriate PLCC meeting.

##### *PLCC Working Group*

The Joint meeting of 23 April recommended that a special PLCC Working Group is convened in July 2012 to work on a review of public library funding needs. It was further proposed and accepted that the Associations may recommend membership of the Working Group from outside the PLCC membership.

The PLCC agreed that the Working Group be established including State Library, PLNSW and NSW MPLA representatives. The Associations agreed to forward nominations to the State Library by 9 June 2012.

The State Library will circulate possible meeting dates once nominations are received.

1 August 2012 was proposed and accepted as the date for a special meeting of the PLCC, which will be convened to consider the Working Group recommendations.

## **6 Libraries Australia response**

The Committee was briefed on the National Library's response to the issues previously raised.

In 2011 a document summarising feedback from the NSW public library network about Libraries Australia issues was considered by the PLCC and forwarded by the State Library to the National Library for a response.

The National Library has provided a detailed response to the document. The Committee noted that the response clarifies the issues and suggests a number of practical solutions for libraries.

The State Library will ensure that the response is shared with the Document Delivery Working Group and NSW public libraries.

## **7 NSW.net Service Delivery and Marketing Strategy**

Joyce Azzopardi presented a progress report encapsulating NSW.net activities from January – June 2012.

The Committee noted that the Service Delivery Strategy is progressing according to plan. The number of installations and upgrades over the six months was particularly noted, including the 64 WiFi hotspots that have been implemented in this first year of the program.

The Committee also discussed the development of a NSW.net Strategy Plan for 2013-16. It was agreed that the planning process will investigate and make recommendations on the following:

- The value of and need for NSW.net connectivity services
- The value of and need for NSW.net content services, including options for maximising consortia returns
- The optimum mix of services offered
- Other services for consideration, and resourcing implications
- The evolution of NSW.net to ensure its services are aligned to supporting the needs of public libraries and communities

It was suggested that econtent in languages other than English is investigated as part of the process.

It was agreed that the State Library would convene a steering committee

to inform the plan's development, comprising representatives from both Public Library Associations.

An update on progress will be brought to the November 2012 PLCC meeting.

## **8 Public Library Statistics 2010/11**

The Committee considered the draft executive summary of the forthcoming *Public Library Statistics 2010/11* publication.

It was agreed that a summary of the 2010/11 statistics is to be prepared for publication on the State Library website, and that emerging areas of library service (for example eservices, programming and use of libraries by non-members) are highlighted.

It was noted that the Public Library Network Research Committee will consider and recommend additions to the annual statistical return which will enable promote measurement of digital, remote and online services provided by public libraries. Further consultation will occur with NSW public libraries on this matter.

## **9 Quick Guide to Drugs and Alcohol – schools distribution**

The Committee was informed that two copies of *drug info @ your library's* publication *A Quick Guide to Drugs and Alcohol*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2011 were recently sent to every high school library in NSW. Accompanying the books was a letter that contained information about the book as it relates to the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) syllabus (studied by all students in years 7-10) and the Drug Info service in public libraries.

The publication has been well received, and many additional copies have been requested by schools.

## **10 Association Reports**

### **10.1 NSW MPLA report (Secretary, MPLA)**

The report of the NSW Metropolitan Public Libraries Association was noted.

### **10.2 Public Libraries NSW report (Secretary, PLNSW)**

The report of Public Libraries NSW was noted.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

## **11 National Moneysmart Week**

The Committee was informed of National Moneysmart Week, an ASIC initiative, which will run from 2-8 September 2012.

A key component of the week is the promotion of an online tool "Money Health Check" which enables individuals to assess their finances. It is likely that people will go to public libraries to access the tool via the

Moneysmart website.

It was agreed that the State Library would distribute fact sheets and other information about Moneysmart Week to NSW public libraries.

**12 National Year of Reading – closing event**

It was agreed that it would be desirable to hold a closing event for NSW public libraries in November, in a public library. This may be an appropriate event to present the 2012 Public Library Marketing Awards (MAPLs).

To be further considered at the September meeting of the PLCC.

**13 Points for communication to the public library network**

*Recommendation:*

The PLCC members agreed that Public Library Funding Strategy 11/12 and 12/13 would remain confidential and not be included in Points for Communication from the PLCC meeting of 28 May 2012 to the public library network.

**14 Meeting dates for 2012**

Wednesday 1 August 2012 – Time to be confirmed – State Library of NSW

Monday 3 September 2012, 11 am to 12.30 pm – Maitland Library

Monday 3 December 2012, 1 pm for 1.30pm to 3pm. Followed by Joint PLCC/LC meeting 3 pm to 4pm.

- 15** PLNSW and the NSW MPLA were each asked to nominate a library manager representative for the Public Library Network Research Committee, to replace Michelle Mashman (Canterbury) and Chris Jones (Great Lakes) who will end their terms at the June 2012 meeting.

**Meeting closed 12.25pm**