

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

### **Minutes**

65th meeting of the Library Council Sub-committee held on  
Monday 3 September, East Maitland Library at 11am

#### **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), Robert Knight (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)

##### **Apologies**

Noel Baum (LGSA), Jennifer Eakins (LGMA).

It was noted that Jennifer Eakins has advised that she is resigning from the Committee.

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

The minutes of the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 1 August 2012, which had been circulated, were confirmed and accepted as a true record. As this meeting was largely concerned with the 2012/13 and 2013/14 public library funding, business arising is dealt with in items 3 and 4 below.

##### **3 Public Library Funding Strategy 2012/13**

Frances Sims updated the Committee on progress. The Library Council endorsed the PLCC recommendations at its meeting of 6 August, and the recommended Public Library Funding Strategy was subsequently forwarded to the Minister for the Arts for consideration and approval.

Following Ministerial approval, the State Library will commence rolling out the subsidies and grants program to local authorities.

##### **3.1 Revitalising Regional Libraries 2012/13**

Cameron Morley informed the Committee about the planned 2012/13 implementation of the Revitalising Regional Libraries Grants program.

The 28 councils that will receive the grant this year are Albury, Bellingen, Bland, Bogan, Clarence Valley, Coonamble, Dungog, Eurobodalla, Gilgandra, Gloucester, Glen Innes Severn, Greater Taree, Guyra, Kyogle, Mid Western Region, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Newcastle, Parkes, Palerang, Port Stephens, Queanbeyan, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Upper Hunter, Warren, Wentworth and Yass Valley.

The State Library will contact each of these councils in September to set dates for the needs assessment consultations.

It was agreed that

- a media release template would be drafted to assist the promotion of the projects funded under the program. This could be made available to local members through the Minister.
- A list of projects funded through the program is to be provided for the information of the Committee

#### **4 Proposed Funding Model and submission for 2013/14 and beyond**

The Committee considered the updated draft of the funding submission which was tabled. The key principles agreed at the meeting of 1 August are unchanged, however extra detail had been added as follows:

- Further detail of public library support for NSW 2021 Goals
- The inclusion of case studies received from NSW library managers
- The development of a simplified spreadsheet to demonstrate the new funding model

Suggestions for enhancement were received from the Committee and agreed, including:

- Changing the title of the Briefing to “Reforming Public Library Funding”.
- Adding information to the Executive Summary that makes it clear early in the document that the Government has committed to a review of the funding.
- Adding information on the number of members who spoke in support of public libraries during the debate on the Library Amendment Bill 2011.
- Changing the funding graph on page 21 to a line graph.

It was agreed that the updated proposal would be provided to the State Librarian as soon as possible for submission to the Minister.

The Committee commended the work of State Library staff on the development of the draft proposal.

#### **5 National Year of Reading – NSW Legacy Event**

The Joint Associations and the State Library have held discussions on hosting a NSW legacy event as a closing ceremony for the National Year of Reading. The proposed venue is Blacktown Library on 23 November. The event would consist of a seminar commencing after lunch, followed by a cocktail event from 5.30pm. The event would include the presentation of the 2012 NSW Public Library Marketing Awards.

The Committee agreed that the Premier and Minister for the Arts should be invited to speak.

The Joint Associations and the State Library will continue to work with Blacktown Library on the organisation of the event.

**6 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Library Act 1939 - 2014**

The Committee was informed that 2014 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Library Act 1939. It was agreed that the State Library and NSW public libraries would work together to propose a program of appropriate activities to celebrate 75 years of cooperation between State and local government in the provision of public libraries for the people of NSW. The following recommendations were agreed:

1. That a reference group with State Library and public library representation is established to develop a proposed program of activity and develop a budget outline to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the NSW Library Act.
2. That the Joint Associations nominate representatives for the reference group.
3. That updates on progress be submitted to the PLCC periodically, including a draft program by June 2013.

**7 Joint PLCC / Library Council of NSW Meeting – Agenda Items**

The Annual joint meeting of the Committee and the Library Council will take place on 3 December 2012 from 3pm to 4pm. The Committee members were asked to suggest agenda items for this meeting.

It was agreed that a presentation is to be developed which outlines the achievements of the NSW public library network in 2012. Suggested topics include the National Year of Reading, public library statistics, highlighting the services of the State Library, noting achievements of the Grants programs, the Value of Public Libraries research, and providing a briefing on the People Places 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

It was agreed that Committee members would send ideas to Cameron Morley by 19 November 2012, and the agenda would be finalised with the Chair at this point.

**Library Value Research**

- 8.** Frances Sims briefed the Committee on the current research project to establish the value of the State Library and NSW public libraries. Deloitte Access Economics (DAE) has been appointed to conduct the research.

The State Library has provided a significant amount of NSW public library data to DAE for use in research derived from the 2010/11 *Public Library Statistics*, including usage data and detailed expenditure information.

All NSW public library managers were invited to participate in the research during July and August 2012. Ten NSW public libraries facilitated surveys to gather data from their communities and three public libraries will be used as case studies.

As part of this research, three sets of confidential surveys were produced, designed to capture the perspectives of *public library users*, the *general public* and *public library managers*.

The survey phase was completed on 31 August 2012. The State Library of NSW thanks public libraries for their responses and assistance with sourcing responses from the public.

The final report is due to be completed by 28 September 2012.

## **9. Association Reports**

Reports from the NSW MPLA and PLNSW were noted.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **10. Points for Communication**

It was agreed that a summary of all items discussed are able to be communicated to the public library network.

### **11. Dates for 2012 / Proposed 2013 Dates**

The next meeting is Monday 3 December 2012 from 1.30pm – 3pm, followed by the annual joint meeting with the Library Council from 3pm-4pm

The following dates were proposed for 2013

1. Monday 18 March 2013, 10.30-12
2. Monday 15 July 2013, 10.30-12
3. Monday 16 September 2013, 10.30-12
4. Monday 2 December 2013, 1.30-3, followed by the annual joint meeting with the Library Council from 3-4.

### **12 Councillor Win Gaffney**

The Committee acknowledged the service of Councillor Win Gaffney, who has advised that she will not be running for council at the next elections, and will accordingly stand down from the NSW MPLA.

Councillor Gaffney's contribution to the PLCC and commitment to public libraries over many years was noted. A vote of thanks was passed by acclamation.

**The Meeting closed at 1pm.**