

Letter of submission

Our Library

October 2011

The Hon. George Souris MP
Minister for the Arts
Level 30
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

We take pleasure in submitting the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Library Council of New South Wales for the year ending 30 June 2011 for presentation to Parliament.

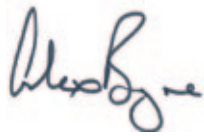
These documents have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*, and the *Public Finance and Audit Act*, as amended.

Submitted on behalf of the Library Council of New South Wales.

Yours sincerely



Mr Robert Thomas
President, Library Council of New South Wales



Dr Alex Byrne
NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive and
Secretary, Library Council of New South Wales

MISSION AND VALUES

To strengthen the community by being the trusted provider of quality information services by:

- providing equitable access to contemporary and historical knowledge
- collecting and preserving Australia's heritage
- promoting our role as a cultural destination
- collaborating with the NSW public library network.

Our core values and beliefs are:

- Equity of access
- Innovation and engagement
- Valuing people
- Honour and integrity
- Energy and teamwork.

VISION

For the community, we aspire to be a Library that is:

- a pre-eminent and welcoming cultural destination
- acknowledged for excellent client service and staff expertise
- an innovative gateway to information and cultural enrichment
- recognised for a unique and accessible collection
- an active advocate for the NSW public library network
- a proactive partner in knowledge creation.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Client-focused library
- Employer of choice
- Revenue growth
- Sustainability

OUR COLLECTIONS

We serve our community by collecting and preserving the documentary history, culture and life of NSW.

The Library collections, an immense source of contemporary knowledge, are valued at \$2.142 billion.

We have printed and electronic materials, as well as world-renowned manuscripts, pictorial materials, oral histories, maps and architectural plans. Our material includes the earliest European documentation relating to Indigenous Australians.

These materials are important for their individual and collective historic, aesthetic and research value, and for their contribution to the cultural record of the nation. We are digitising our collection, making it accessible anytime, anywhere.

OUR SERVICES

Our friendly and efficient staff help clients find accurate information from anywhere in the world. Our reading rooms offer study spaces, email and internet access, online resources, browsing collections and national and international newspapers.

We provide support, advice, and research and professional development to NSW public libraries. We also offer onsite consultations and service reviews. Multicultural services include books and audiobooks in over 40 community languages, which are on loan through local public libraries. The Family History service helps people discover information about their ancestors and their lives. Australian Indigenous information services provide advice on family history as well as a range of information and collections related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Specialist information services such as drug info @ your library and the Legal Information Access Centre deliver up-to-date, relevant and reliable information.

Services are provided to clients across NSW via the 'Ask a Librarian' service which answers enquiries made online, by telephone, fax or post. Copying, imaging and document supply services provide access to our collections in the formats required by our clients.

Up-to-date equipment provides easy access to our collections and adaptive technology is available for clients with a disability. The talking book and large print book collections are made available on loan through local public libraries.

OUR SERVICE GUARANTEE

- Timely, relevant and accurate information provided from anywhere in the world to anywhere in the state
- Courteous, friendly and efficient staff
- Requests for information and advice responded to promptly
- Resources held in our collections are easily accessible
- Services and resources meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and clients with disabilities
- Appropriate and well-maintained equipment and facilities are available
- Training courses provide participants with valuable and relevant skills
- Fee-based services deliver value for money

HISTORY OF OUR LIBRARY

The State Library of NSW is one of the oldest libraries in Australia. In 1869 the NSW Government purchased the Australian Subscription Library, which had been established in 1826, to form the Sydney Free Public Library, the first truly public library for the people of NSW. The Mitchell Library, the first library in the country to concentrate entirely on Australian content, opened in 1910.

OUR LIBRARY'S LEGISLATION

The Library Council of NSW is the governing body of the State Library. Library Council objectives are defined in section 4A of the *Library Act 1939*.