Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC)

55th meeting of the Library Council Sub-committee to be held on
Monday 8 March 2010 in the Jean Garling Room,
State Library of New South Wales at 10 for 10.30am

(Lunch will be served from 12.00pm)

Agenda

1. Attendance

2. Minutes
   The minutes of the 54th meeting held on 16 November 2009

Monitor the funding arrangements to provide advice to the Library
Council on an annual basis

3. Vision Australia Presentation

   3.1 Vision Australia
       Director, Public Library and Community Learning Services

   3.2 Briefing Paper and Presentation
       Julie Rae, General Manager Community Information Access,
       Vision Australia

Action
   For information

Provide policy advice to Library Council in relation to the provision of
public library services in New South Wales

4. Review of Library Regulation 2005
   Director, Public Library and Community Learning Services

Action
   For information

Provide advice to Library Council on an annual basis concerning the
development of guidelines for Library Development Grants

Provide a consultative framework for the Library Council, the State
Library and key stakeholders in local government concerning public
library services in New South Wales
5. Regional Libraries and the Library Act 1939: Crown Solicitor Advice

5.1 Background paper
Director, Public Library and Community Learning Services

5.2 Crown Solicitor Advice
Jessica Kavanagh, Acting Senior Solicitor for
The New South Wales Crown Solicitor

Action
For information

6. Public Library Network Research Committee Update
Manager, Funding and Advisory Services

Action
For information

7. Review of Public Library Services
Director, Public Library and Community Learning Services

Action
For information

8. yourtutor
Coordinator, NSW.net

Action
For discussion and recommendation

9. Library Council report (standing item)
Chair, PLCC

Action
For information

10. For information

10.1 Local Government Managers Australia (NSW) report
LGMA Representative

10.2 Public Libraries NSW - Metropolitan report
Secretary, PLM

10.3 Public Libraries NSW - Country report
Secretary, PLC
GENERAL BUSINESS

11. Other business
Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC)

Minutes

55th meeting of the Library Council Sub-committee held on
Monday 8 March in the Jean Garling Room
State Library of New South Wales, at 10.30am

1. Present
Robert Knight (Chair – Library Council of NSW), Rob Thomas (Library Council of NSW), Noel Baum (LGSA), Ian Greenhalgh (PLC), Clr Graham Smith (PLC), Clr Win Gaffney (PLM), Lia Chinnery (LGMA), Martin Field (PLC), Lyn Barakat (PLM), Jennifer Bice (PLM), Frances Sims (State Library of NSW), Richard Fisher (Library Council of NSW), Clr Julie Hegarty (LGSA), Cameron Morley (State Library of NSW- Minutes)

Apologies
Regina Sutton (State Library of NSW)

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<td>2</td>
<td>Review of Previous Minutes and Business Arising</td>
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<td>The minutes of the 54th meeting held on 16 November 2009, which had been circulated, were confirmed and accepted as a true record. Noel Baum was noted as an apology.</td>
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<td>2.1 Business arising</td>
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Monitor the funding arrangements to provide advice to the Library Council on an annual basis

3 | Vision Australia Presentation | |
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<td></td>
<td>Ms Julie Rae, General Manager Community Information Access, Vision Australia was in attendance for this item. Ms Rae outlined the work of the Vision Australia Library Service and sought further information on the Minister’s decision to reallocate the funds formerly provided to Vision Australia from the Public Libraries Grants and Subsidies.</td>
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<td>Richard Fisher outlined that the decision was based on the Parry Report and the growing demands on the Public Library Grants and Subsidies from local government public libraries, which Library Council has a legislative responsibility to support. It was also noted that the Library Council works to support public libraries in their services to the vision impaired through the Library Development Grants program.</td>
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<td>It was agreed in principle that the NSW Public Library Associations would support Vision Australia in approaching appropriate Government Departments for separate additional funding.</td>
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<td>The Committee thanked Ms Rae for her presentation.</td>
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<td>It was further agreed that the State Library will write to Vision</td>
<td>Cameron Morley</td>
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Public Libraries Consultative Committee, 55th Meeting
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<td>Australia stating that funding Vision Australia from the Public Libraries Grants and Subsidies is not considered viable under the current funding circumstances. The letter will note that the Associations have indicated that they are happy to support Vision Australia to seek additional and separate funding.</td>
<td>Frances Sims</td>
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<td>Provide a consultative framework for the Library Council, the State Library and key stakeholders in local government concerning public library services in New South Wales</td>
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| 4             | **Review of the Library Regulation 2005**  
Frances Sims provided an update on the Review.  
The Review is progressing according to the required timetable. Key stakeholders including NSW public library managers were invited to comment by 1 March 2009 during the initial consultation phase as part of the development of the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).  
The RIS and draft Library Regulation 2010 will go on public display in May 2010. Further comment will be invited at this time.  
It was proposed that the date of the next PLCC meeting (31 May) is changed to Friday 11 June to enable the Committee to consider any changes to the proposed new Regulation. | Frances Sims             |
| 5             | **Regional Libraries and the Library Act 1939**  
The advice was noted, and it was moved that the proposed amendment to the Library Act 1939 be supported. This was unanimously agreed.  
It was also agreed that the State Library will approach the NSW Department of Local Government to progress the matter.  
A recommendation on the amendment will be forwarded to Library Council following this consultation. | Cameron Morley            |
| 6             | **Public Library Network Research Program Update**  
The Committee was notified that the final report of the project *A Benefit/Cost Analysis: outsourcing of acquisition, cataloguing and processing in NSW public libraries* will be published and distributed to councils this month.  
The Research Committee next meets on 25 March to consider the 2010 program of research. |                          |
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| 7            | **Review of Public Library Services**  
Frances Sims updated the Committee on the progress of the Review, which had been outlined at the August 2009 meeting. Library Council subsequently endorsed the review concept in November 2009.  
Requests for quotations to carry out the review were issued in December 2009, and Heugin Consulting were appointed in February.  
The Review will include consultation with NSW library managers and staff, as well as council staff.  
The PLM and PLC Associations will be asked to nominate representative library managers for an initial focus group in late March.  
The Review is expected to be complete by the end of the 2009/10 financial year.                                                                 | PLM / PLC Representatives   |
| 8            | **Yourtutor**  
Joyce Azzopardi, Manager NSW.net attended to present the Briefing on yourtutor service for consideration by the Committee.  
Since 2006 the possibility of a consortia purchase of the yourtutor service has been raised by various NSW public library groups, and has been considered by the PLCC in 2006 and 2007.  
NSW.net initiated investigations of the yourtutor service with public libraries in September 2009, and commenced discussions with the Principal of yourtutor in October 2009, with a view to brokering opt-in consortia purchasing on behalf of NSW public libraries.  
Presently, approximately 49 NSW public libraries subscribe to the yourtutor service.  
In December 2009 NSW.net met with Mr Jack Goodman of Tutoring Australasia to discuss consortia purchasing options for yourtutor through NSW.net. Mr Goodman stated he was unable to offer a further discount to NSW.net beyond what is currently offered to clients.  
In place of a consortia option, Mr Goodman proposed that NSW.net purchases a subsidised Statewide subscription to yourtutor costing up to $350,000 per annum. Under this proposal the 49 existing subscribing libraries would continue to pay their annual subscriptions, and the $350,000 per annum from NSW.net would enable the 40 non-subscribing libraries to use the service. The benefit to current subscribers would be |
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<td>more sessions for their existing subscription costs and that the new subscribers would be allowed to subscribe to the service for half of the usual start up cost (due to the $350,000 subsidy from NSW.net).</td>
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<td>The Committee considered that the sustainability of the proposed Statewide model is not assured given that some of the existing public library subscriptions are co-funded by the individual library and sponsor/s. A further concern was that if the number of sessions taken up by public libraries increases, so too will the cost of annual subscriptions.</td>
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<td>The Committee noted that yourtutor has not provided NSW.net with an opt-in consortia purchasing option for NSW public libraries, and that the proposal cannot be funded under the existing budget. After consideration of the proposal the Committee agreed that it cannot recommend that the funding of this proposal would be effective expenditure of Statewide library funds, given that the entire NSW.net content budget is to the order of $350,000 per annum.</td>
<td>Frances Sims</td>
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<td>It was agreed that the State Library on behalf of the PLCC will write to Tutoring Australasia advising that the Committee has considered the proposal and concluded that it cannot be funded from the Public Library Grants and Subsidies.</td>
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<td>The Committee recognises that yourtutor has value and that many NSW public libraries subscribe to the service, however the Public Libraries Grants and Subsidies are fully committed supporting core library functions. The Committee suggests that Tutoring Australasia approaches the NSW Department of Education and Training for a Statewide solution.</td>
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<td>Library Council Report (standing item)</td>
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<td>The Report was noted</td>
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<td>The Reports were noted.</td>
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<td>GENERAL BUSINESS</td>
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<td>Other Business</td>
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<td>Meeting dates for 2010:</td>
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<td>- 8 March 2010</td>
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<td>- <strong>Friday 11 June 2010</strong> – replaces <strong>31 May 2010</strong></td>
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<td>- <strong>30th August 2010</strong></td>
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<td>- 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November 2010</td>
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Meeting closed 12.10pm