Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC)

Minutes

57th meeting of the Library Council Sub-committee held on

Monday 30 August 2010 in the Jean Garling Room

State Library of New South Wales, at 1.30pm

1. Present

Robert Knight (Chair – Library Council of NSW), Rob Thomas (Library Council of NSW), Regina Sutton (State Library of NSW), Ian Greenhalgh (PLC), Clr Graham Smith (PLC), Clr Win Gaffney (PLM), Jennifer Bice (PLM), Frances Sims (State Library of NSW), Lyn Barakat (PLM), Keryl Collard (PLC), Richard Fisher (Library Council of NSW), Clr Julie Hegarty (LGSA), Noel Baum (LGSA), Cameron Morley (State Library of NSW- Minutes)

Apologies

Lia Chinnery (LGMA)

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<tr>
<th>Agenda item #</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Review of Previous Minutes and Business Arising</td>
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The minutes of the 56th meeting held on 11 June 2010, which had been circulated, were confirmed and accepted as a true record.

The Chair welcomed Ms Keryl Collard (Manager, Maitland City Library) to her first meeting representing Public Libraries NSW-Country.

2.1 Business arising

Regional libraries and the Library Act 1939

Frances Sims updated the Committee on progress. The State Library has received a response from the Division of Local Government to a letter seeking input on the matter. Advice from the LGSA has been sought which will inform Library Council’s recommendation to the Minister. A paper on the matter will go to the Library Council meeting this evening.

Public Library Funding 2010/11

Frances Sims informed the Committee that the Library Council
recommendation on allocations for 2010/11 are still being considered by the Minister. A follow-up Briefing Note was forwarded to the Minister by the State Library last week. All councils will be notified once Ministerial sign-off occurs.

**Review of Public Library Services**

Frances Sims advised that the draft report of the Review of Public Library Services Branch has been received. Results show a high level of satisfaction with Branch services and will provide a solid basis for refining available services to public libraries. More detail will be provided to the next PLCC meeting.

**Library Regulation 2010**

The draft Library Regulation 2010 has received the Governor's assent, and will be made law in the Spring session of Parliament.

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<th>Monitor the funding arrangements to provide advice to the Library Council on an annual basis</th>
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<th><strong>Agenda Item 3</strong></th>
<th>3. <strong>Advice to Government on Public Library Funding: Submission to the Minister for the Arts on Public Library Funding needs</strong></th>
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Frances Sims and Cameron Morley presented the draft submission which outlines arguments in favour of a major increase to the Public Library Grants and Subsidies, and recommends increases to each component of the Public Library Funding Strategy. The submission is based on the work of the PLCC Funding Working Group which met on 6 August 2010 to consider funding needs. The minutes of this meeting were endorsed.

The Committee endorsed the draft submission for presentation to the Library Council of NSW.

Once considered and endorsed by the Library Council, it was recommended that the submission is to be provided to the Minister for the Arts for her information and consideration.

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<th><strong>Proposal from Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan regarding increased Interlibrary Loan Van funding</strong></th>
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Clr Win Gaffney presented the paper, which outlines that the
Interlibrary Loan Van service operated by Waverley City Council on behalf of metropolitan public libraries requires extra funding of $25,000 this financial year.

The State Library is requested to increase its subsidy of the service from $20,000 to $55,000 this year.

Clr Gaffney further noted that alternatives to the van service are being considered for the 2011/12 year and beyond.

Frances Sims noted that the allocation of the Strategic Network Projects component of the Public Library Grants and Subsidies for 2010/11 was discussed at the 11 June PLCC meeting, and that the budget has been set according to that meeting.

However it was agreed that the van service is of great benefit to public libraries and the public, and that the budget would be reviewed. Advice on proposed savings and / or reallocations from the Research, Professional Development and Statewide Network Development components will be brought to the next meeting.

It was further agreed that Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan will bring a paper on the future options for the service to the next meeting.

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

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 Legal Advice on lending of certain items

The State Library sought legal advice from the Crown Solicitor on behalf of NSW public libraries regarding the lending of computer games and some retail editions of audio books.

The advice has been received, and a summary will be made available to NSW public libraries.

6 Motions from Public Libraries NSW – Country AGM

Clr Graham Smith presented motions from the Public Libraries NSW – Country Annual General Meeting concerning the Committee / State Library. The Motions are as follows:
A. This Annual General Meeting notes:

1. the continuing disproportionate commitment to public library funding between the State Government and Local Government in NSW;

2. the increased demand placed upon public libraries in NSW by the devolution of government services through online access;
3. the increased commitment by other State Governments across Australia to funding for public libraries;
4. the increased demand from the community for quality services as provided by the NSW public library network; and
5. the recent call by the NSW Minister for the Arts for a sector-based submission on funding options.

This annual general meeting therefore calls upon:

a. Public Libraries Consultative Committee and Library Council to make vigorous representations to the Minister for the Arts and the Treasurer seeking additional and sustainable funds to maintain the NSW public library network.

b. all parties to commit, in their State Election Policy on the Arts, to maintain a sustainable funding model for the NSW public library network; and

c. all parties to refer any future changes to the public library funding model to an independent review by IPART, to assess whether devolution of government services through online access justifies any additional funding provision.

B. That SLNSW be requested to consider the inclusion of appropriately skilled, qualified and experienced staff from the NSW PLN for research projects in which their participation is appropriate and will add value to the process.

C. That the PLNSW-C requests the SLNSW to discuss with APRA a special licence for NSW public Libraries.

A further recommendation from the Association followed:

(D) That the Public Library Consultative recommends to Library
Cameron Morley
Frances Sims

| 7 | **NSW.net Update** |

Joyce Azzopardi attended and presented the NSW.net report including a progress report on the 2009-12 NSW.net Services Delivery and Marketing Strategy.

The Committee considered the proposal that the current Content Evaluation Working Group (which is a subset of the Statewide Reference and Information Services Group) is replaced by a dedicated NSW.net Content Working Group.

The structure of the Content Evaluation Working Group is under review following the recent merging of one of the public library metropolitan zones. Previously four Public Libraries - Metropolitan (PLM) and five Public Libraries - Country (PLC) representatives were members of the group, however, there are now only 3 PLM representatives. The disparity in metropolitan and country representative numbers has highlighted the need to bring this working group in line with the other State Library public library consultative committees.

It is proposed that the Group structure consists of three public library representatives from each metropolitan and country association (6 representatives in total). These representatives are to be chosen from small, medium and large libraries as nominated by the respective Associations.
It was also proposed that the scope of the content considered for inclusion in NSW.net services is expanded to include audio content, ebooks and best practice discovery tools for online resources. In the meantime PLCC members were asked to inform their members that they should contact NSW.net if they are interested in online ebook / audio-book subscriptions.

The group's name has been changed to reflect the new structure and expanded activities of the group.

The proposals were endorsed and it was agreed that a draft Terms of Reference for the Working group would be circulated to PLCC members for comment.

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<th>8</th>
<th><strong>Library Council Report</strong> (standing item)</th>
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<td>The Report was noted</td>
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<th><strong>For information</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.1 Public Libraries NSW - Metropolitan Report</td>
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<td>10.2 Public Libraries NSW - Country Report</td>
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The Reports were noted.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

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<th><strong>Other Business</strong></th>
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<td>The Committee discussed the agenda for the forthcoming meeting with the Library Council of NSW to be focused on the Public Library Funding Submission. That meeting was scheduled to begin at 3pm.</td>
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**Meeting dates for 2010:**

- 15 November 2010

Meeting closed 3pm