

# Media Release



## State Library celebrates 75 years of public libraries by announcing new state-wide initiative

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The State Library of NSW will partner with public libraries across the state to rollout an exciting new initiative to give public library members 24/7 access to a wide range of online resources.

The announcement was made last night by Dr Alex Byrne, NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive at the State Library's Gala event in honour of the 75th Anniversary of the *NSW Library Act* 1939.

"Libraries play a vital role in the cultural life of our State and nation and it's fitting and exciting that this announcement coincides with the state-wide celebration of the 75th anniversary of the *NSW Library Act*," says Alex Byrne, NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive.

Since the passage of the *Library Act* in 1939 the number of public libraries in New South Wales has grown from two to over 360, with 3.2 million members and more than 35 million people visiting libraries each year.

This program will enable anyone in NSW with a public library card to register as a State Library member and access the Library's purchased resources free of charge. On offer is a wide range of resources that complement those held by NSW public libraries, including local and international newspapers, full-text articles and journals, reliable health and business information, online encyclopedias, and much more.

"The State Library of NSW offers rich collections to people across the state by connecting people in local communities with our amazing resources, including over 3,000 ebooks, all from the convenience of home or via a mobile device," said Dr Byrne.

"Our resources cover all areas – family history, business, fashion, film – so residents are sure to discover links related to their own personal interests."

Local family historians can access a wealth of historical content, including shipping and passenger records, local history links and newspapers from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to date.

For students who become members, the State Library's resources will help reduce frustrating and time-consuming internet searches by connecting students directly with primary sources and quality information in all subject areas.

Access to the State Library's free resources will be rolled out over the coming months to participating public libraries for members to register.

### For more information, interviews and images, please contact:

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