

**Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC)
Extraordinary Meeting**

Minutes

64th meeting of the Library Council Sub-committee held on
Wednesday 1 August 2012 at the State Library of NSW at 10am

Item Discussion

1 Present

Jan Richards (Chair, Library Council of NSW), Alex Byrne (State Librarian), Andrew Tink (Library Council of NSW), Robert Knight (PLNSW), Cllr Graham Smith (PLNSW), Cllr Win Gaffney (NSW MPLA), Jennifer Bice (NSW MPLA), Frances Sims (State Library of NSW), Michelle Mashman (NSW MPLA), Keryl Collard (PLNSW), Cllr Julie Hegarty (LGSA), Cameron Morley (State Library of NSW- Minutes)

Apologies

Rob Thomas (Library Council of NSW), Noel Baum (LGSA), Jenny Eakins (LGMA)

2 Review of Previous Minutes and Business Arising

2.1 The minutes of the 63rd meeting held on 28 May 2012, which had been circulated, were confirmed and accepted as a true record.

It was agreed that business arising not related to funding will be dealt with at the 3 September meeting.

2.2 The adopted Minutes of the PLCC Funding Working Group meeting of 9 July were noted. The draft 23 July minutes were adopted by majority, given that one member of the Working Group is not on the PLCC.

The recommendations of the Funding Working Group are detailed in Item 4 below.

3 Public Library Funding Strategy 2012/13

The Committee endorsed the Strategy as outlined in the paper and recommended the Strategy to the Library Council of NSW.

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

The Committee considered a tabled paper and a series of spreadsheets outlining a proposed new funding model developed by the PLCC Funding Working Group. The key principles agreed were as follows:

- A staged increase to the Public Library Grants and Subsidies over 4 years to \$60M.
- A base level of funding is established for councils with populations below 20,000 people.
- Per capita allocations are increased to \$2.48 per capita.
- Disadvantage is to be addressed through the application of appropriate disability factors. The Committee considered a range of disability model variations and agreed that Model 4 was the preferred option for the disability component.
- Anomalies in current allocations due to former council amalgamations are to be phased out.
- A substantial capital fund, comprising \$30M of the total, entitled the *Building Library Infrastructure Fund* is established as a replacement for the Library Development / Country Libraries Fund Grants. This fund will ensure library buildings, facilities, systems and resources (including digitisation) are maintained and improved to meet demand. The program is to make provision for larger grants (i.e. up to \$1M) for buildings.

The Committee commended the work of State Library staff on the proposed new model.

A proposed format for the submission to the Minister was discussed and agreed.

It was further agreed that a summary of the proposed model is prepared for the consideration of PLCC members. This summary is to be used as the basis for further advocacy on the matter.

5 Recommendations to the Library Council

The PLCC recommended that a paper is prepared outlining the proposed model for the consideration of the Library Council.

The PLCC recommended that this model forms the basis of a submission to the Minister for the Arts which will seek both an increase to the Public Library Grants and Subsidies, and a change to the allocation method.

6 Points for Communication

It was agreed that the 2012/13 Public Library Funding Strategy and a summary of the proposed new model will be communicated to NSW public libraries.

7 Dates for 2012

The next PLCC Meeting will be on Monday 3 September 2012 at East Maitland Library from 11am. Further details will be communicated to members.

The final meeting for 2012 is scheduled for Monday 3 December 2012, 1 pm for 1.30pm to 3pm. Followed by Joint PLCC/LC meeting 3 pm to 4pm.

The Meeting closed at 12pm.