

## LITERACY MATTERS: STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA LITERACY STRATEGY 2017

### ACTION PLAN: 2018 – 2023

Literacy Matters is a ten-year strategy to coordinate the work of the State Library of Western Australia with its partners and supporters to improve literacy for all Western Australians. This *Action Plan 2018-2023* has been developed through The Literacy Alliance, a collaboration of cross sector organisations responsible for the provision of literacy programs and services to Western Australians. It sets goals and outcomes for the next five years towards the vision that all Western Australians have the literacy they need for living and learning. Literacy is defined as, “the ability to understand, evaluate, use and engage with written text to participate in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential” (*Literacy Matters*, page 5). It includes digital, family and adult literacy. The Literacy Alliance will implement the *Action Plan* and measure ongoing improvement in literacy through the development of an evaluation framework.

#### **GOAL 1: All Western Australians are aware of the value of literacy in opening up lifelong potential**

We will:

- Provide opportunities for individuals and families to celebrate literacy, learning and the joy of reading;
- Remove the stigma associated with difficulties reading, writing and numeracy;
- Foster positive attitudes to encourage individuals to seek support; and
- Promote the role of libraries across the State in developing and enhancing literacy for life.

| Action  | Outcomes   |
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| <b>1.1</b> Participate jointly with agreed key messages in existing annual literacy campaigns and public conversations about literacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Increased awareness in the Western Australian population of the importance of high levels of functional literacy across a lifespan</li><li>○ Reduction in stigma associated with low levels of functional literacy</li><li>○ Improved appreciation of the value of regular reading across all age groups</li><li>○ Increase in number of Western Australians reading regularly</li></ul> |
| <b>1.2</b> Promote and encourage participation in existing literacy related activities and programs available in libraries            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Increased awareness in the Western Australian population of the availability of activities and programs relating to literacy in public libraries across the State</li></ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase in number of Western Australians participating in literacy related activities and programs in libraries</li> </ul>  |
| <b>1.3</b> Build collaborative partnerships with organisations providing literacy related services and promote these services to Western Australians | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alliance members working together and with other organisations on joint promotion of literacy related services</li> </ul>  |
| <b>1.4</b> Design and deliver literacy awareness workshops   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Literacy awareness workshops designed and delivered to a range of organisations</li> </ul>   |
| <b>1.5</b> Convene literacy forum/s to celebrate community successes and discuss barriers to literacy development with community groups              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved relationships between Alliance members and communities, particularly people experiencing high level challenges</li> <li>○ Improved understanding of community needs in respect to literacy</li> </ul> |

## **GOAL 2: All Western Australians have the opportunity to improve their literacy**

We will:

- Create an alliance of key organisations and community leaders across sectors that can collaborate to improve literacy;
- Develop and implement a five year action plan with meaningful indicators that measure improvements in literacy outcomes;
- Collaborate with community, volunteer, government and non-government organisations to support local community-led literacy initiatives;
- Work with EAL/D speakers and communities to provide meaningful and engaging literacy services for all ages;
- Improve the confidence of parents to assist in the development of early literacy skills for their children;
- Continually review programs using evidence based research with community input.

| <b>Action</b>   | <b>Outcomes</b>   |
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| <b>2.1</b> Maintain an alliance of key organisations and community leaders across sectors to collaborate and improve literacy outcomes for Western Australians  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An alliance of key organisations is maintained and members participate actively</li> <li>○ New members are welcomed and encouraged to be involved</li> <li>○ Improved collaboration and strategic approach to literacy across sectors</li> </ul> |
| <b>2.2</b> Implement a five year action plan with meaningful and measurable indicators for improvement in literacy of Western Australians and create an effective evaluation framework to measure improvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Literacy outcomes in the action plan are achieved within the five year period and effective measures are created and implemented</li> <li>○ Outcomes from services and programs are evaluated and assessed effectively</li> </ul>                |

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| <b>2.3</b> Create a website of existing literacy services, programs and key messages in Western Australia  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved ability to provide information to Western Australians about available literacy services and programs</li> <li>○ Increase in number of Western Australians accessing literacy services and programs</li> <li>○ Key literacy messages are communicated to the Western Australian public</li> </ul> |
| <b>2.4</b> Investigate opportunities to collaborate with organisations working with Western Australian Aboriginal communities in the literacy space  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Relationships are established between Alliance members and organisations working with Western Australian Aboriginal communities</li> <li>○ Opportunities are created to work collaboratively with Western Australian Aboriginal communities in the delivery of literacy initiatives</li> </ul>            |
| <b>2.5</b> Investigate opportunities to support adult literacy in Aboriginal communities   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New approaches to Aboriginal adult literacy are piloted and evaluated</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2.6</b> Develop a working relationship with the Department of Justice to better understand the literacy needs of prisoners and their families, particularly when transitioning back into mainstream society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prisoners and their families have improved understanding of available literacy related programs and services</li> <li>○ Improved understanding of the literacy needs of prisoners and their families</li> </ul>   |

### **GOAL 3: All Western Australians have access to literacy learning programs**

We will:

- Promote and support services so people know where to get help with reading, writing and numeracy;
- Provide adult and family literacy initiatives that respond to a range of community needs;
- Support formal and informal literacy programs in community and workplace settings, providing different pathways for people to achieve their literacy goals.

| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Outcomes</b>  |
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| <b>3.1</b> Cross promote and encourage participation in existing literacy programs and services, including targeted programs, in a range of environments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved awareness of the existence of literacy related programs and services in Western Australia</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase in number of Western Australians accessing literacy programs and services programs</li> <li>○ Improved awareness of the existence of specialised literacy support in workplaces and educational institutions</li> <li>○ Increase in number of Western Australians accessing specialised literacy support</li> <li>○ Explore possible collaborations to deliver programs in communities</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.2</b> Identify existing literacy programs and/or services for children aged 0-15 that we can support to become examples of best practice   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased number of children aged 0-15 participating in literacy related programs, services and initiatives</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3.3</b> Create new literacy programs and/or services for young people aged 15-25   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased number of literacy programs for young people aged 15-25</li> <li>○ Increased number of young people aged 15-25 participating in literacy related programs, services and initiatives</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3.4</b> Collaborate and share knowledge to identify barriers to the ongoing development of literacy skills in vulnerable Western Australians battling a range of high level challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved understanding of barriers to literacy development impacting on Western Australians facing high level challenges</li> <li>○ Improved ability to guide pathways for Western Australians facing high level challenges</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3.5</b> Continue to develop early childhood literacy practices to ensure all Western Australian children have adequate foundational literacy   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Successes in foundational literacy levels of all Western Australian children at school entry are retained and continued</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3.6</b> Support digital literacy programs in libraries to ensure all Western Australians have adequate digital literacy to fulfil their life goals                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provision and promotion of existing digital literacy programs</li> <li>○ Opportunities are sought to expand digital literacy programs and initiatives, particularly for older Western Australians and Western Australians without access to training and support</li> <li>○ Promotion of e-smart and e-safe practices</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3.7</b> Promote existing literacy programs and services for Western Australians with English as a Second Language or Dialect (EAL/D)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provision and promotion of existing literacy programs for Western Australians with EAL/D</li> </ul>  |