

## Public Libraries Working Group Meeting 9

3pm Monday 18 November 2019  
State Library of Western Australia – Board Room

### ATTENDEES

Margaret Allen	Chief Executive Officer, SLWA (Chair)
Jodie Holbrook	Director Local Government Policy & Engagement, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Alison Oliver	PLWA Representative
Kirstie Davis	Policy Manager Community, WALGA
Sue North	Public Library Strategy Manager, SLWA (Secretariat)

### APOLOGIES

Anne Banks-McAllister	Library Board of WA
Nick Sloan	Chief Executive Officer, WALGA
Jo Burges	Executive Manager People & Place, WALGA

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

#### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

##### RESOLUTION:

The draft Minutes of the meeting of 16 September 2019 were endorsed.

#### 3. Matters Arising

##### 3.1 Public Libraries Strategy Update

Sue North provided an update on the implementation of the Strategy as per the report attached to the agenda.

- AO will work with PLWA to map requirements of public libraries for the Library Board (Registered Public Libraries) Regulations 1985.
- MA advised that a review of the legislation is not on the agenda for this term of government; however, the repealing of regulations may be possible.

- SLWA's report to the Department of Treasury, seeking approval for the repurposing of the capital allocation for public library materials to a recurrent allocation and the transfer of ownership of public library materials purchased with State Government funding to local governments is being considered as part of the Mid-Year Review process with a decision likely in December.
- Work on a business case for a single library access card is almost complete. A Value Management Workshop will be facilitated by the Western Australian Treasury Commission on 26 November and, following this, AOT Consulting Pty Ltd will finalise the business case. The business case will be submitted as part of the 2020-21 budget process.
- AO told the meeting that PLWA will undertake a strategic planning exercise later this month and that a statewide marketing campaign would be discussed. MA asked if this would be done with SLWA. AO advised that currently it is being viewed as a public library project but will advise further following the strategic planning.
- AO advised that around 17 local governments in WA are participating in the collaboration of Culture Counts with Public Libraries Australia (PLA); however, most of these were already using Culture Counts and are not new subscriptions. MA advised that numbers from other States have been low possibly because most are no longer PLA members.
- SN advised of a new report from the Victorian Auditor-General examining whether councils and regional library councils in Victoria deliver services efficiently and effectively. SN will email out the link to the full report which is available at <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2019/11/apo-nid267606-1398176.pdf>

#### **ACTIONS:**

- **AO to provide PLWA's advice to PLWG of the need for the current Library Board (Registered Public Libraries) Regulations 1985.**
- **AO to advise on the outcome of PLWA's strategic planning in relation to a statewide marketing campaign.**
- **SN to email link to report from the Victorian Auditor-General**

#### **4. New Business**

##### **4.1 Allocation Model Review**

- SN outlined the findings outlined in the report circulated to PLWG members and spoke to the recommendations of the Reference Group tasked with the review of the allocation model.

- All recommendations were endorsed by the PLWG.
- In addition, a decision was taken to trial, for two years, grants for Tier 2 local governments to encourage promising practice in public libraries. \$25k was proposed for this. An evaluation of the outcomes from this trial will be required to inform its future.
- This will provide an incentive for improved services for libraries in smaller regional and remote local governments and add strength to the aspirational aspect of the model.
- Planned communication on the proposed changes is important and it was agreed that this would start in February with a forum for local governments. As the WALGA Board Room is not available, it will be hosted at DLGSC. The reviewed model can then be presented at zone meetings in March and April. SN will update communications plan with this information and revised dates.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

- **PLWG endorsed the eleven recommendations contained in the Public Library Funding Allocation Model Review Report 2019.**
- **PLWG endorsed an additional recommendation that to be eligible for a Secondary Library allocation, a library must meet the minimum requirements for a Tier 3 library service.**
- **PLWG resolved to trial for two (2) years grants to a total value of \$25,000 to Tier 2 local governments to encourage promising practice in delivering public library services.**

#### **ACTIONS:**

- **SN to update communications plan and circulate to PLWG members.**

#### **4.2 State and Local Government Partnership Agreement**

- MA outlined the opportunity that has arisen to develop a new high-level agreement for public library services that sits under the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement. This was supported by the Partnership Agreement Leadership Group's meeting of 30 October and SLWA will meet with WALGA and DLGSC to progress this.

### **5. Key Messages to Stakeholders**

- The implementation of the Public Libraries Strategy is progressing well and a current update is available at <https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/about-us/corporate/wa-public-libraries-strategy>
- A review of the funding allocation model has been completed and the recommendations from the Reference Group tasked with undertaking the review have been endorsed by PLWG.
- Consultation with stakeholders will now be undertaken.

**6. Next Meeting Date: TBC.**

**7. The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.**