

## Public Libraries Working Group Meeting 11

2pm Friday 21 August 2020

State Library of Western Australia – Board Room

### ATTENDEES

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

### APOLOGIES

Nil.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting particularly Mark Batty who is attending his first PLWG meeting and Jodie Holbrook via Zoom.

#### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

##### RESOLUTION:

The draft Minutes of the meeting of 8 June 2020 were endorsed unchanged.

#### 3. Matters Arising

##### 3.1 New Model Implementation

- Sue North provided an update on the implementation of the new model as attached.
- Anne Banks-McAllister asked why more Tier 1 local governments were not expressing an interest in taking up to 20% of their allocation as a Library

Priority cash allocation. Alison Oliver said that this was because of uncertainty about local government budgets.

- Alison Oliver reported that PLWA will re-consider their approach for marketing to look at what can be sustained during COVID recovery. Margaret Allen detailed the intention of the Strategy for a joint approach to this via PLWG. Mark Batty provided information on a campaign that WALGA is working on to produce short videos for a social media campaign to advocate for the role of Local Government planning and building teams. MB indicated that WALGA could work with PLWA to do something similar for public libraries. The planning and building brief is attached.

### **3.2 State Local Government Partnership Agreement**

- Margaret Allen spoke to the report provided with the Agenda.
- MA asked WALGA for written confirmation of the changes endorsed at State Council so that a final version of the Agreement can be provided to the Leadership Group for signing on 1 September. Jodie Holbrook advised the Group that she requires this by 26 August at the latest so that it can be included with the agenda papers that will be sent out prior to the meeting. Kirstie Davis said she would email through the final WALGA endorsed version to Sue North on Monday 24 August. MA will brief the Chair of the Library Board and place the signing in his diary. JH confirmed that this is the first agreement to come out of the Partnership Agreement.

### **Actions**

- **KD to confirm State Council changes in a final version to be sent by WALGA to Sue North by COB Monday 24 August 2020.**
- **SN to circulate final version to PLWG.**

### **3.3 Future Strategy**

- Margaret Allen spoke to the report provided with the Agenda.
- Anne Banks-McAllister said that it was important for the new Strategy to be framed in the context of the Road to Recovery plan and to consider what we've learned and what we're (libraries) are perceived as.
- There was consensus that a new strategy would provide a much needed strategic approach for the delivery of public library services in WA and that a reference group should be established to initiate a series of virtual presentations with national and international speakers to stimulate thinking

and discussion of trends and issues. This group will also develop a project plan to provide to PLWG for endorsement.

- AO indicated that PLWA would be happy to take this approach and referred to a recent presentation from Nathaniel Bavinton, the Innovation and Futures Manager at the City of Newcastle, on Smart Cities and Smart Citizen programs. These could be interesting case studies in the development of a new strategy.
- JH indicated that a new strategy could consider aligning with the Closing the Gap Agreement, recently refreshed by government.  
<https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/national-agreement-ctg.pdf?q=0720>
- JH also drew the Group's attention to the Local Government Act panel review report that discusses civic engagement, intergovernmental relations, and use of digital technology.  
<https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/department/publications/publication/local-government-review-panel-final-report>

### **Action**

**AO to call for PLWA nominations to the reference group and provide these to SN.**

## **4. New Business**

### **4.1 Review of PLWG Terms of Reference**

- MA spoke to the paper included with the Agenda.
- There was agreement that the ToR needed reviewing to reflect the new Agreement that is scheduled for signing on 1 September.
- The consensus of the Group is that a Board sub-committee is not required at this stage as the PLWG is fulfilling requirements.
- It was agreed that any recommendations from PLWG members regarding updating of the ToR should be sent to Sue North.
- JH proposed considering the Centre for Social Impact's work to develop an online diagnostic tool for organisations to assess the 'health' of their collaborative relationships. This helps collaborators understand how well they work together now, and in the future as their collaboration matures.  
[https://www.csi.edu.au/research/project/collaboration-health-assessment-tool/#:~:text=The%20Collaboration%20Health%20Assessment%20Tool,\(or%20without\)%20their%20collaborators.](https://www.csi.edu.au/research/project/collaboration-health-assessment-tool/#:~:text=The%20Collaboration%20Health%20Assessment%20Tool,(or%20without)%20their%20collaborators.)

## **Actions**

- **PLWG members to send feedback on ToR to Sue North by COB Friday 11 September.**
- **SN to draft new ToR for the consideration of PLWG.**

## **5. Other Business**

### **5.1 Local Level Agreements**

- SN outlined the need to develop a new local level agreement once to support the new agreement for the provision of public library services.
- MB indicated that WALGA may be able to provide some support of this project.
- PLWG is supportive of forming a reference group to draft a local level agreement for the consideration of PLWG. AO will call for PLWA volunteers for this group. There was agreement that it would be useful to include people with a governance background.

### **Action**

- **AO to provide SN with PLWA nominees for reference group to draft a new local level agreement.**
- **MB to advise SN of potential WALGA member.**

## **6. Key Messages to Stakeholders**

- The State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia is expected to be signed at the next meeting of the Leadership Group on 1 September 2020.
- The PLWG will lead a new strategic planning process to enable progress toward the vision articulated in the Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia.
- The Terms of Reference for PLWG are being reviewed to align with the principles and goals of the Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia.
- Following the signing of the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia, a reference group will be established to develop a new local level agreement for the consideration of PLWG.

## **7. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday 30 September 9.00am.**