

Public Libraries Working Group Meeting

2.00 pm Monday 23 April 2018
State Library of Western Australia – Board Room

ATTENDEES

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

APOLOGIES

Ricky Burges	Chief Executive Officer, WALGA
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MINUTES

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the re-formed Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG).

Margaret Allen provided a brief history of the work of the PLWG and the development of the WA Public Libraries Strategy to achieve a shared vision for the future development of public library services in WA. This included the significant work done by WALGA in developing Vision 2025, which is referenced in the Strategy.

The main purpose of today's meeting is to consider the outcomes from the Strategy's consultation process and to discuss the next steps in planning for the implementation of priorities.

2. Terms of Reference and Protocols

Draft ToR were tabled and endorsed.

Kirstie Davis asked about the parameters for decision making and Margaret Allen confirmed that this would be about making recommendations on policy and priorities to be endorsed by the Library Board and WALGA State Council.

Meeting times (Monday mornings) and frequency (monthly initially with this to be reviewed as required) were confirmed.

Anne Banks-McAllister asked about the life of the group and Margaret Allen suggested discussing this further at the next meeting once some initial planning has been done on implementation.

Resolution

That the draft Terms of Reference are endorsed.

3. WA Public Libraries Strategy

The draft Consultation Report was tabled for discussion.

Margaret Allen outlined the key findings from the survey and responses from stakeholders. It was agreed that with convincing support expressed by stakeholders for all priorities and no significant additional issues raised, no changes to the Strategy were required and that the Consultation Report should be submitted for endorsement to the July meetings of the Library Board of WA and the WALGA State Council.

Resolution

The PLWG endorsed the findings of the Consultation Report and resolved that this would be submitted to the Library Board of WA and WALGA State Council for their endorsement.

Anne Banks-McAllister asked how much work had been done to feed into the implementation of the five priorities. It was agreed that a paper outlining existing work on each of these and suggested next steps for implementation, including resource requirements, would be prepared for the next meeting of the PLWG. Margaret Allen outlined previous work including the Options Paper prepared by the former Department of Culture and the Arts on a Shared Library Management System for WA. Alison Oliver outlined work currently being undertaken by PLWA on advocacy and marketing for the sector.

Workforce planning for the sector was also seen as important in the implementation of the Strategy.

Resolution

That SLWA will prepare a paper for the next meeting of the PLWG outlining work done to date on each of the Strategy's priorities and recommending next steps in the implementation process.

4. Communication to Stakeholders

It was agreed that key messages will be developed at each meeting for communication to stakeholders.

Resolution

That key messages would be developed following each meeting of the group for communication to relevant stakeholders.

5. Other Business

Margaret Allen provided an overview of a meeting she has had with Celia Loot at DPIRD on funding and model changes to Community Resource Centres and outlined the mapping done by SLWA on the locations of CRCs and libraries. Kirstie Davis and Anne Banks-McAllister advised that WALGA State Council will discuss changes to CRC funding at their next meeting. Margaret Allen proposed that SLWA develop a position paper to identify opportunities for closer alignment between libraries and CRCs. Margaret Allen suggested that Rob Lester from DPIRD could be invited to a future PLWG meeting to discuss opportunities for closer alignment between libraries and CRCs.

Resolution

That SLWA develop a position paper on opportunities for closer collaboration between CRCs and libraries.

6. Next Meeting: Monday 21st May at 9am at SLWA Board Room

7. Key messages for communication to stake holders

- The consultation process for the WA Public Libraries Strategy has included workshops, meetings and forums with stakeholders as well as an on-line survey that attracted over 1,300 responses, over 70% of which came from community members. Nineteen responses were received from local governments.

- The Strategy's five priority areas received convincing endorsement in all forums including the survey where all five priorities were well supported across all respondent groups.
- A full report on the findings of the consultation was considered and endorsed by the PLWG at its April meeting and will now be presented to the July meetings of the Library Board and WALGA State Council for their endorsement.