

Public Libraries Working Group Meeting 12

10:30am Wednesday 7 October 2020
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
Caroline Jones	PLWA Representative
Mark Batty	Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy & Planning, WALGA
Marissa MacDonald	A/Policy Manager Community, WALGA
Sue North	Public Library Strategy Manager, SLWA (Secretariat)

APOLOGIES

Anne Banks-McAllister Library Board of WA

MINUTES

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting particularly Caroline Jones and Marissa MacDonald both attending their first PLWG meeting. Margaret Allen thanked Mark Batty and Sue North who are both attending their final meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLUTION:

The draft Minutes of the meeting of 21 August 2020 were endorsed unchanged.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 New Model Implementation

- CJ confirmed that Alison Oliver will arrange to meet with Oliver Gatty to discuss the process for reviewing the Library Board (Registered Public Libraries) Regulations.
- CJ will provide SLWA with names of PLWA representatives on the reference group developing the new local level agreement. SN

commented that the work would likely be concentrated on the core services. JH asked to be kept informed about the development of these as there may be opportunities to link them with work being done by DLGSC on the review of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework for Local Government.

3.2 State Local Government Partnership Agreement signing

- JH reported that the new State and Local Government Partnership Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services was signed at the 1 September meeting of the State Local Government Partnership Leadership Group. Jodie expects the minutes from the meeting to be signed off by all parties within the next week and once this is done, the Agreement can be published and circulated.

3.3 Future Strategy

- PLWG members discussed the formation of a reference group to progress the development of a new strategy and agreed that this would be formed with members of the PLWG as well as some additional nominations from PLWA. Caroline Jones, Jodie Holbrook and Marissa MacDonald agreed to participate with Caroline as chairperson. As agreed at the previous meeting, work will commence with identifying speakers to stimulate thinking and discussion of current and future trends and issues for public libraries, particularly in a period of COVID recovery. CJ will discuss with PLWA opportunities to link these sessions with PLWA's professional development workshops.

3.4 Review of PLWG Terms of Reference

- The PLWG considered the draft ToR circulated with the agenda. It was agreed that:
 - they reflected the purpose and objectives of the new Partnership Agreement.
 - The chairperson would rotate on a 12 monthly basis
 - That membership would be broadened to include representatives from a Tier 2 local government, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Office of Digital Government) and DPIRD.
- These changes will be incorporated and circulated for endorsement out of session.

Action

SN to circulate revised ToR for endorsement by members out of session.

4. Other Business

- CJ informed the meeting that PLWA has reconvened its marketing working group. MB offered to send material to PLWA on the recent work done on planning in local governments. MA reiterated that SLWA would be happy to discuss opportunities for working with PLWA.
- There was discussion on the advantages of looking at opportunities to align future PD work of PLWA with work on the new strategy. CJ will pass this on.
- JH asked about the impact of the Wander Out Yonder campaign on libraries in regional WA. MA indicated that on a recent visit to Exmouth Library, they were very busy. SN to contact Exmouth to seek their experience of possible impact.
- The Group discussed opportunities for COVID recovery funding for library services. MB said that WALGA has done some work tracking job seeker figures by local government areas that could be circulated.

5. Key Messages to Stakeholders

- The PLWG is reviewing its terms of reference to better align with the newly signed Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia.
- PLWG will establish a reference group to progress the development of a new strategy made up of some members from the PLWG as well as additional nominations from PLWA and SLWA. Caroline Jones will chair this group.
- The value of public libraries was evident during the COVID shutdown and PLWG is interested in hearing of any work demonstrating the on-going value of public libraries in responding to the needs of their community in the recovery phase.

6. Next Meeting Date: TBA.