

A woman with vibrant red hair, seen from behind, is holding a black smartphone up to take a photo of a library exhibit. She is wearing a black long-sleeved top, a black smartwatch on her left wrist, and several rings and bracelets on her hands. The exhibit features a blue wall with white text and a large white panel with red text. A framed photograph is visible on the right side of the wall.

STATE

LIBRARY

2025-26

Annual Report of the Library Board of Western Australia

Acknowledgement of Country

State Library of Western Australia kadij Wadjak Noongar boodjar-ak wer kendjil Marawar boodjar kalyakool moondang-ak kaaradjiny. Ngalak kadij ngala bibool kadadjiny-dandjoo kangowiny Indigenous yoongar dirdong Australian boodjar, ngannilak. Ngalak boola moort noondak-marar yoongi ken y baam-ak kadadjiny nyidiyang-ak kaaratjiny. Ngalak kadij Birdiya, koora wer yeyi, ngiyan Noongar kadadjiny moort yanginy.

The State Library of Western Australia acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people on whose land we are located. We acknowledge the traditional lands of all the Western Australian Aboriginal communities and their cultural practices and knowledge and kinship systems. We recognise that our collections hold traditional cultural knowledge belonging to Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander communities around the country. We support communities to protect the integrity of this information, gathered from their ancestors in the colonial period. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, who have handed down these systems of practice to each new generation for millennia.

Net fishing at Galeru Gorge
near Mount Pierre Kimberley,
1975 Sam Lovell | BA2947/273



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Statement of Compliance

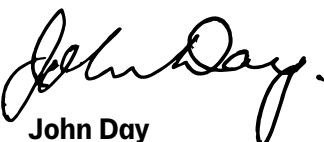
Library Board of Western Australia
74th Annual Report

Hon Simone McGurk MLA
Minister for Creative Industries

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, and in fulfillment of obligations imposed on the Board by the *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the 74th Annual Report of the Library Board of Western Australia for the period ended 30 June 2026.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and relevant *Treasurer’s Instructions*.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the report misleading or inaccurate.


John Day
Chairman
Library Board of Western Australia
3 September 2026


Constance Wiebrands
Vice Chairman
Library Board of Western Australia
3 September 2026

Information about cover image

A State Library visitor at the *A Recipe for Life* exhibition launch, September 2025.

Accessibility

This report is available in alternative formats on request. Requests can be made by phoning 9427 3111 or emailing info@slwa.wa.gov.au

Cultural warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this document may contain images and names of deceased persons.

Introduction and overview



Chairman’s report

Amidst the opportunities and pressures of our fast-moving world, the State Library of Western Australia continues to work for the long-term benefit of everyone in our community. I am proud to share with you some of the highlights from the State Library calendar and our ongoing commitment to collecting, preserving and sharing the rich knowledge and histories of Western Australia.

An important milestone for the Library Board of Western Australia during the year was the signing of the *State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia* in October 2025.

The agreement defines a State and Local Government collaboration to build a sustainable 21st century public library network at the heart of all communities across the 2.5 million square kilometres of our vast state.

It is a collaboration that commenced 75 years ago in 1951, and supports library services in 233 local public libraries, including at Christmas and Cocos Islands in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Visitation to the State Library continued to be strong this year, both in person and online, demonstrating the Library’s value to the community. I look forward to the completion of the rejuvenated Perth Cultural Centre in 2027, when

the State Library can take advantage of the opportunity offered by the new public spaces.

Championing the public library network is a pillar of the State Library’s strategic approach. As such, it was a pleasure to begin the 2025–26 financial year with the announcement of the annual Library Board Awards. Western Australian libraries make an outstanding contribution to their communities—from education and early childhood learning to cultural connection and life-long literacy in all its forms. It was inspiring to see the ingenuity and diverse range of ideas and projects produced by librarians throughout Western Australia.

The State Library’s unique position at the centre of Western Australia’s documentary history was again demonstrated this past year through the exhibition and event program. The program has highlighted the significance of the Library’s extensive collections, bringing the past and present together, and producing new histories for future reflection and study.

The *A Recipe for Life* exhibition explored the relationship between food and Western Australia’s cultural identity. The exhibition acknowledged the generations of Aboriginal people who nurtured and continue to care for Country and examined the impact of European agricultural practices on Western Australia’s food landscapes. The oral histories recorded for the exhibition add to the

State Library’s collection of contemporary Western Australian stories. I thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition finale, a panel conversation held with the Country Women’s Association (CWA) discussing the iconic *CWA Cookery Book and Household Hints* and its impact on our food landscape. The CWA also generously donated several editions of the cookbook that were not previously held in the State Library’s collections. The donation will further enable research into how Western Australian tastes have changed over the last century.

I was delighted to support the launch of the State Library’s new Giving Program that offers donors the opportunity to become active participants in the State Library’s mission to inspire lifelong learning, strengthen communities and preserve Western Australia’s heritage for future generations. Through giving circles, regular donations and bequests, supporters help sustain State Library programs that improve literacy, promote inclusion, support Aboriginal-led storytelling and reconciliation, foster reading and writing, enable research and family history discovery and connect communities across the vast state.

In return, donors become part of a community of advocates who share a commitment to enriching the intellectual and cultural life of Western Australia.

On behalf of the Library Board of Western Australia, I extend my sincere thanks to the Minister for Creative Industries, the Hon Simone McGurk MLA, and extend the Board’s thanks to the Director General of the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, Chad Anderson. The support of the Minister and the Director General is greatly appreciated.

I also thank my fellow Board members for their contribution during the year, and acknowledge outgoing board member Michelle Brennand for her service to the Board. We welcomed Gary Mack, who joined us in December 2025.

No report on the State Library of Western Australia would be complete without special acknowledgement of the CEO and State Librarian, Catherine Clark, and the community of staff and volunteers working to ensure that libraries in Western Australia thrive. The Library Board of Western Australia is grateful for the expertise and stewardship of our people that have led to the many highlights included in the following pages.



John Day
Chairman



Library Board
of Western Australia

CEO and State Librarian’s report

I am proud to share with you highlights from 2025–26 that demonstrate the State Library’s achievements against our *Strategic Plan 2023–2027* and the ongoing commitment to our mission of treasuring stories, inspiring possibilities and strengthening communities.

The State Library continues to be a destination of choice for visitors to Western Australia. This year saw more than 1.4 million visits in person and online to a wide range of collections, services and programs that fulfil lifelong learning, enterprise and recreational needs. Visitors came from across the state and around the world to access our unique Western Australian collections, to research, to learn, to participate and connect, and to relax. This report highlights activities through the year, including curated events and exhibitions, early literacy and schools programming, and acquisition of significant Western Australian collections.

Commencement of significant activity towards longer term rejuvenation of the spaces in the State Library building and a digital transformation program have been important steps this year. As the state’s pre-eminent library for nearly 140 years, we continue to evolve in line with the changing community and broader context and these activities will continue to be a priority.

The State Library directly contributes to the achievement of the strategic priorities of the *Creative WA* vision. A particular emphasis this year has been increased support for Western Australia’s diverse and thriving writing sector through expanded categories and promotion of the Western Australian Premier’s Book Awards to reflect the range and depth of the published output of our authors, illustrators and publishers. It has also been wonderful to watch the growth of our partnership with Screenwest for WA Reflections, offering emerging film makers the opportunity to develop their skills through visual interpretation of our collections. These films are now being screened at festivals across the country, promoting the Western Australia screen industry.

A strong presence in the regions continued through our partnerships to deliver public library services in every local government in the state and through the delivery of the Better Beginnings family literacy program. It is always informative and enjoyable to visit metropolitan and regional library services to discuss the work being done in their communities, their successes and the challenges they face. During the year I visited activated, community-focused libraries in Cambridge, Katanning, Kojonup, Landsdale, Melville, Mundaring and Rockingham, meeting

with local government staff from CEOs to Library Officers. I thank them for the warm welcome that I received.

“The State Library directly contributes to the achievement of the strategic priorities of the Creative WA vision.”

We are now five years into the WA Government funded At-Risk Audio-Visual Digitisation Project that is enabling us to digitise all Western Australian audio-visual materials in our collections. Most of the work up until now has been behind the scenes getting the material ready for digitisation and then securing the digital files created for these unique glimpses of our shared past. It is very exciting to be entering the final phase of the project where we will make these works available to all Western Australians via our catalogue and through our exhibitions and programming.

Libraries are widely recognised as trusted institutions, and we are increasingly seeing the importance of our role in fostering a strengthened democracy and social cohesion with collections and programs that promote participation, education, respectful debate and digital inclusion.

Around the world, this year saw libraries continue to deal with organised campaigns to restrict access to materials. Western Australian libraries have not been immune to these challenges. We are supporting local governments so that they can balance their local community needs with the rights of people to have access to publications that have no legal restriction upon them.

Thank you to the WA Government and to the Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Creative Industries, for supporting the essential role that libraries play in our communities. I would also like to acknowledge the support of Chad Anderson, Director General, Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport and the broader departmental team. Thank you also to John Day, Chairman of the Library Board of Western Australia and the other members of the Library Board who share our vision for the future of the State Library and the public library network.

I am fortunate to work with dedicated staff and volunteers who use their skills and expertise to innovate, develop and improve the delivery of services every day. My personal thanks to all of them for their contributions during the year.



Catherine Clark
CEO and State Librarian

Catherine Clark

State Library of Western Australia



Strategy





Purpose

Treasure
Stories

Inspire
Possibilities

Strengthen
Communities

Values

Community-focused

Provide high quality services
based on community need

Responsive

Make informed, timely decisions
and communicate them clearly

Respectful

Respect and value the
rights of all people

Accountable

Be accountable for all the work of the
State Library of Western Australia

Innovative

Be open to new ideas and embrace
opportunities for improvement

Strategic priorities

The *State Library Strategic Plan 2023-2027* is guided by four priority areas:

Collect, preserve and share

Reflect the rich diversity of the community in collecting, preserving and sharing Western Australian stories

Responsive services

Deliver services that are responsive to the needs of the community and offer opportunities for growth, connection and empowerment

Public libraries

Champion the essential role of local public libraries in supporting innovation and providing a sense of belonging

Foster sustainable operations

Foster a dynamic staff culture and an efficient and sustainable operating environment



The State Library in context

Western Australia

The State Library is the nation's largest and most comprehensive repository of Western Australian documentary heritage with responsibility for collecting, preserving and sharing some of Western Australia's most significant published and unpublished collections, audio visual content, pictorial collections and private archives.

The State Library promotes Western Australian writers and other creatives through programming, collection acquisitions and recognition in the annual Western Australian Premier's Book Awards and the WA Reflections short documentary program.

Since the 1950s, the Library Board and the State Library have worked with local governments to ensure contemporary library collections and services are freely available to all Western Australians. This partnership continued this year in 233 public library service points across the state. The CEO and State Librarian and other staff visit local governments to provide advice, support and training. Advice and training are also made available online, along with a variety of grants.

The reach of the State Library's Better Beginnings family literacy program ensures that every Western Australian family with young children, regardless of circumstance or location, has access to books to encourage a love of reading from an early age.

Australasia

Australasian library networks and collective expertise are harnessed to drive innovation and collaboration, engage diverse communities and contribute to the national collection and agenda. Through membership in the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) network, resource sharing, digital preservation and improved information access in collaboration with the other nine state and national libraries across Australia and New Zealand is achieved. Benefits for Western Australians from this partnership include the National eDeposit (NED) scheme that provides an avenue for publishers to comply with the obligations of the *Legal Deposit Act 2012* and *Copyright Act 1968*.

An additional significant nationwide partnership is with the National Library of Australia and the Trove digital portal which is used across the world as a key access point for Western Australian collections and content. Trove contains more than six billion records from Australian collecting institutions.

International

The State Library engages globally through its membership of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and other international coalitions to foster understanding and shared knowledge that benefits the State Library and Western Australian communities.

WA Government

The State Library is a statutory authority within the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport. Through its facilities, collections, programs and events the State Library contributes to the following WA Government creative and wellbeing strategies:

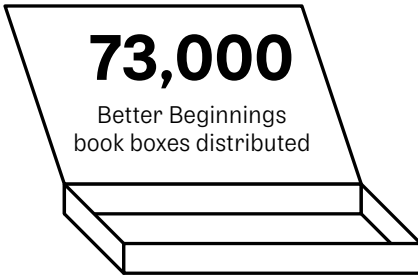
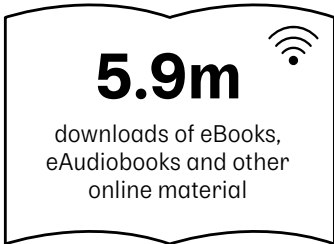
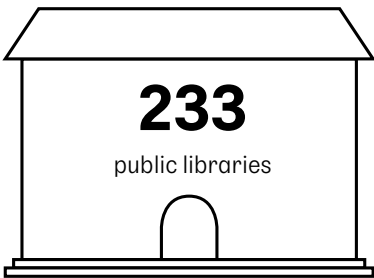
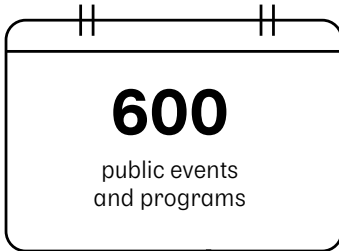
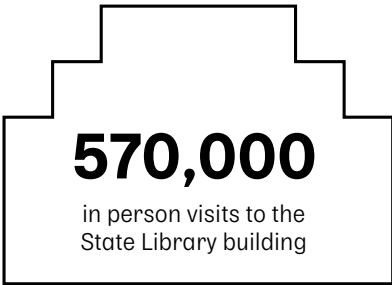
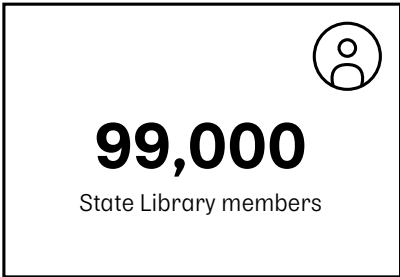
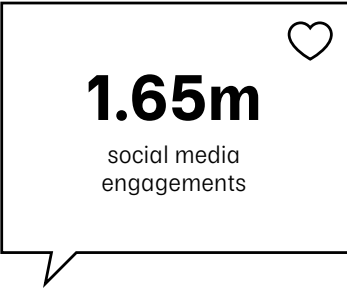
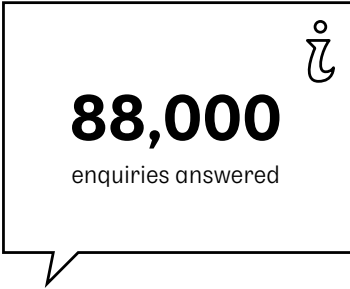
- *Creative WA: A 10-year vision to grow and sustain our creative ecosystem*
- *WA Youth Action Plan 2024-2027*
- *An Age-Friendly WA: State Seniors Strategy*
- *Digital Inclusion in WA Blueprint*
- *LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Strategy*



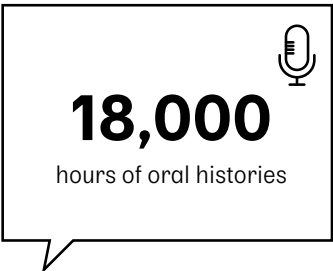
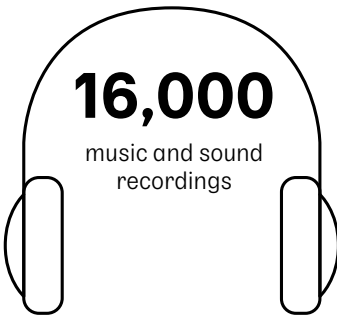
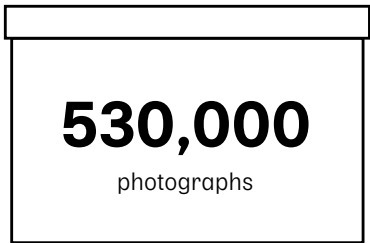
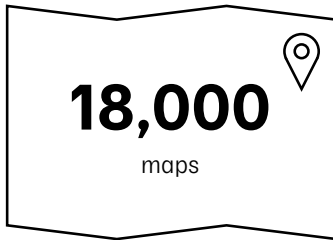
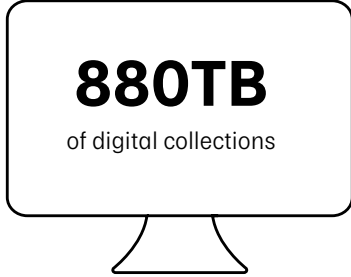
Highlights



Engagement in 2025–26



State Library collections at 30 June 2026



A Recipe for Life

A Recipe for Life: The Food That Shapes Us explored the history of food in Western Australia. The popular exhibition was hosted in the State Library building between September 2025 and April 2026.

Exhibition curator Julian Tompkin was inspired by the State Library’s expansive collection of Western Australian restaurant menus and the story they told about the changing environmental, social, cultural and economic landscapes of Western Australia in the 200 years since European colonisation of Whadjuk Noongar Country.

Through photographs, advertisements and audiovisual material, the exhibition considered Aboriginal food cultures and practices, the impacts of the introduction of European agriculture on the Western Australian landscape, and the relationship between cooking, gender and cultural identity. The exhibition featured historical material and stories from homegrown Western Australian food brands including Brownes, Peters, Watsonia, D’Orsogna, Chicken Treat and Red Rooster.



New histories for future generations

To complement the exhibition and add to the collection, the State Library commissioned new oral histories from various Western Australian culinary experts. Researched and conducted by food writer Max Veenhuyzen, the series features conversations with restaurateur George Kailis, small goods manufacturer Marco D’Orsogna, Aboriginal food expert Dale Tilbrook, celebrity chefs Anna Gare and Russell Blaikie and 2025 WA Good Food Guide Chef of the Year Blaze Young.



Migration, multiculturalism and food culture

Melting Pot: Food, Memory and Belonging was a live panel conversation exploring how migration and the multicultural community in Western Australia has contributed to evolving food cultures. The panel featured leading Western Australian food historian and Chinese Hakka food expert, Dr Cecilia Leong-Salobir, Venezuelan former journalist, charity worker and caterer Tamara Rodriguez, Filipino chef of Gather Foods fame Eddie Bulatao, Vietnamese celebrity chef and MasterChef contestant Jenny Lam, and owners of Marcelita’s Empanadas, Marcela and Matt O’Donohue. The panel was moderated by Sisonke Msimang.



Regional Western Australia and the CWA cookbook

The State Library served scones, stories and secret recipes with the Country Women’s Association. The sold-out panel event discussed the influence of the Country Women’s Association’s *Cookery Book and Household Hints* on Western Australian home kitchens. Featuring Country Women’s Association president Felicity Edwards, North Street store owner, baker Lachlan Bissett and 2025 WA Good Food Guide Chef of the Year Blaze Young.

Dialogues 2029

2029 will mark 200 years since the establishment of the Swan River Colony in Western Australia. The Bicentenary will commemorate a defining moment in the State’s history, but this was not the beginning of Western Australia’s story.

Dialogues 2029 is the State Library’s four-year program of activity to acknowledge this significant moment in Western Australia’s history and its ongoing influence on the landscape and the many people who call this place home.

The Dialogues 2029 program aims to invite conversation and truth-telling through engagement with State Library collections. The program also involves new proactive and collaborative collection activities with Aboriginal people that acknowledge historical gaps in the archives.

Dialogues 2029



Kinjarling Djinnang Ngalak: Country Sees Us

In May 2026, the State Library launched *Kinjarling Djinnang Ngalak: Country Sees Us*. The exhibition is a Menang-led response to acknowledging 200 years since European colonists established the town of Albany on Kinjarling Country.

The exhibition acknowledges the historical lack of Menang oral histories in State Library collections and seeks to share Menang perspectives on the landscape and stories of Kinjarling.

The centrepiece of *Kinjarling Djinnang Ngalak: Country Sees Us* is a six-metre-wide dome clad in botanical photography of banksia, grass trees and bushland local to the Kinjarling area. The dome is designed to evoke a Kornt, a traditional Noongar shelter.

Exhibition visitors are invited to step into the Kornt and experience the video oral histories of Menang Elders, including Carol Pettersen, Vernice Gillies, Lester Coyne, Mark Colbung and Sharralyn Maddren, alongside an interview with young Menang Ranger Cleve Humphries.

The interviews featured in *Kinjarling Djinnang Ngalak: Country Sees Us* were conducted on Country in Kinjarling to respond to and add Menang voices to historical landscape photography and maps held by the State Library.

The exhibition also features an animation in which Merningar Yorga and First Nations artist Shandell Cummings, in collaboration with video artist Steven Alyian, reinterprets maps and botanical drawings held by the State Library.

Kinjarling Djinnang Ngalak: Country Sees Us was the first event in the State Library’s Dialogues 2029 program.



Albany Then and Now: Historical Panoramas of Menang Noongar Boodja

The State Library partnered with the Western Australian Museum and Curtin University’s Hub for Immersive Visualisation and eResearch (HIVE) to produce *Albany Then and Now: Historical Panoramas of Menang Noongar Boodja*. The project was supported by the City of Albany and Lotterywest and hosted at the Museum of the Great Southern between December 2025 and June 2026.

Albany Then and Now: Historical Panoramas of Menang Noongar Boodja featured an immersive installation narrated by Menang people, other local experts and historians. A panoramic screen showed historical and contemporary photography of Kinjarling Country and the City of Albany. The State Library contributed photographs from its extensive collections to the exhibition.

Supporting Western Australian writers

Western Australian Premier’s Book Awards

The Premier’s Book Awards recognise the outstanding talent, diversity and strength of Western Australian writing and celebrate the important role literature plays in reflecting and enriching the cultural life of Western Australians.

In response to a State Library-led industry review, 2025 saw an expansion of the Awards to six dedicated categories for Children, Young Adult, Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction and Emerging Writers, along with prizes for Book of the Year and the Daisy Utemorrhah Award, administered by Magabala Books.

Held on 29 August 2025, the Western Australian Premier’s Book Awards ceremony, presented by the Minister for Creative Industries, Hon Simone McGurk MLA, was attended by 330 writers, publishers, booksellers and readers; a celebration of storytelling and creative achievement.

The Awards provide a major platform for writers to connect with readers, sell books and earn a living from their craft.

Premier’s Book Award Winners

- **Book of the Year**, sponsored by Writing WA (\$15,000) *G-d, Sleep, and Chaos* by Alan Fyfe, published by Gazebo
- **Children’s Book of the Year** (\$15,000) *A Leaf Called Greaf* by Kelly Canby, published by Fremantle Press
- **Young Adult Book of the Year** (\$15,000) *My Family and Other Suspects* by Kate Emery, published by Allen & Unwin
- **Poetry Book of the Year** (\$15,000) *G-d, Sleep, and Chaos* by Alan Fyfe, published by Gazebo
- **Non-Fiction Book of the Year** (\$15,000) *Anatomy of a Secret: One Man’s Search for Justice* by Gerard McCann, published by Fremantle Press
- **Fiction Book of the Year** (\$15,000) *Shadows of Winter Robins* by Louise Wolhuter, published by Ultimo Press
- **Emerging Writer** (\$15,000) *Matia* by Emily Tsokos Purtill, published by UWA Publishing
- **Daisy Utemorrhah Award for Unpublished Indigenous Junior and Young Adult Writing**, administered by Magabala Books (\$15,000) Beau Windon for *Jax Paperweight and the Neon Starway*.

Stories from the West was a new initiative in 2025. The one-day event provided Premier’s Book Awards shortlisted writers the opportunity to engage with an audience of avid readers and showcased a curated collection of Western Australia’s most compelling contemporary writing.



Public Library Innovation

Library Board Awards for Innovation and Collaboration

The Library Board Awards are an annual celebration of excellence in Western Australian libraries and promote innovation and collaboration in two categories, Metropolitan and Large Regional and Small Regional. Each category has a \$5,000 prize.



Winner: Metropolitan and Large Regional Libraries Category

City of Melville Libraries won for its Book Challenge System. The system was created to address a critical need for a clear and accessible framework responding to Freedom to Read challenges concerning collections, materials and programs while ensuring staff safety. The model has since been adopted by a number of libraries across the state.



Winner: Small Regional Libraries category

Mount Barker Public Library, in the Shire of Plantagenet, won for Reading for Generations. The project supports children’s early literacy development with two key aims: encouraging Hazara families to read with their children, and to build community pride and support for Noongar language development.

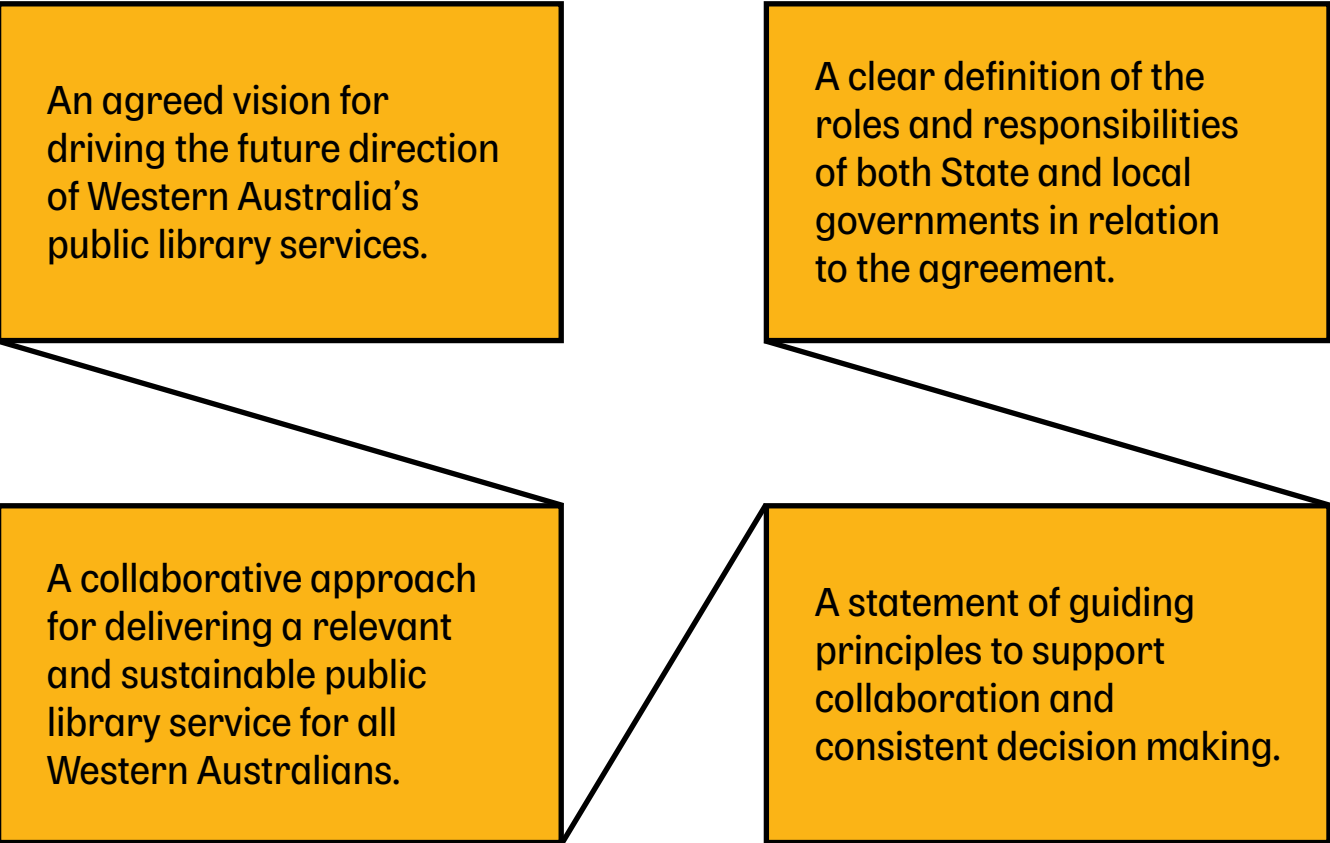
State and Local Government Agreement for Public Library Services

The Agreement defines the shared commitment to delivering responsive and sustainable public library services for all Western Australians.

Local governments use the Agreement to support decisions to make collections available without censorship within Australian classification law.

In October 2025, an updated Agreement was signed by the Minister for Creative Industries on behalf of the WA Government, renewing this partnership for a further five years. The revised agreement was developed by the State Library in consultation with the WA Local Government Association, Public Libraries WA and Local Government Professionals Australia WA.

The updated agreement outlines the way in which State and local governments will continue to work together to deliver improved public library services to the community and includes:



L-R: Anthony Vuleta MLGP, President, Local Government Professionals Australia WA; Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Creative Industries; John Day, Chairman, Library Board of Western Australia; Cr Karen Chappel AM JP, President, Western Australian Local Government Association. October 2025.



Preserving and sharing Western Australian stories



The need for sustainable conservation strategies for digitised material has been an important component of the State Library’s collection practices for over 25 years.

The State Library is committed to leading practice in digitisation to ensure future generations of Western Australians will be able to benefit from the its rich collections.

Digitising Western Australia’s documentary heritage

During the year, the State Library continued to expand its digitisation capacity through ongoing investment into digital infrastructure, workflows and specialist expertise. These efforts ensure the State Library can capture diverse materials and support future research and engagement with the collection.

The State Library houses high-resolution imaging systems to support the digitisation of a wide range of media formats; from 16mm film to two-dimensional collection material such as maps, artworks, manuscripts, photographs, negatives and slides.

Digitisation benefits Western Australia

High-resolution materials digitised for bespoke exhibitions and programs enable people to experience archival material in vivid detail. Through large-format photographic reproductions and expert interpretation, visitors to the State Library explore stories, themes and perspectives that reveal the richness of Western Australia’s documentary heritage.

Free public access to lower resolution digitised materials is available online via the State Library’s catalogue.

During the year the State Library added 25,000 pages to the national Trove collections portal. Digitised materials provided to Trove span metropolitan, regional and specialist publications from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century.

Culturally significant publications were prioritised for digitisation to support the National Redress Scheme. This work facilitated access to records of enduring cultural and social significance and demonstrates the immediate, tangible impact digitisation can have for individuals and communities.



Building sustainable foundations in digital preservation practices

The State Library is committed to proactively addressing the increasing scale and complexity of digital collections. A major milestone in 2025–26 was the State Library’s adoption of FF Video 1 (FFV1). FFV1 is an emerging international video coding format adapted for the long-term preservation of digitised moving images. The FFV1 format will improve the sustainability and resilience of digital collections and has significantly reduced storage infrastructure costs for video material.

At-Risk Audio-Visual Digitisation Project

This six-year project, funded by the Office of Digital Government, is a major contribution to the preservation and accessibility of audio and audiovisual Western Australian collections at the State Library.

The project also prepares decades-old, rarely seen material for meaningful and responsible access by the public. Work includes reviewing new digital files, improving metadata, identifying copyright and access conditions and developing protocols for cultural collections.

During the year, the project contracted a historian to research the history of the film collection, alongside a researcher to assess Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) in films by or about Aboriginal people. Both areas of work are informing the collection’s metadata and cultural access conditions, as well as identifying opportunities for future research and interpretation.

These activities enhance discoverability and prepare the rich audiovisual archive to be shared through future public engagement programs and other forms of digital access.

Digitised files from the project now comprise more than half of the State Library’s digital collections (by storage volume). The project continues to generate valuable insights into digital preservation practice and storage management.

25,000

digitised pages uploaded to Trove in 2025–26

99%

Western Australian audiovisual collection digitised via the At-Risk Audio-Visual digitisation project

6,700

hours of material digitised via the At-Risk Audio-Visual Digitisation Project

Agency performance



Actual results versus budget targets

Financial targets

	2025-26 Target (\$000)	2025-26 Actual (\$000)	Variation (\$000)
Total cost of services (expense limit)	34,796	35,252	456
Net cost of services	33,841	33,867	26
Total equity	178,522	153,583	(24,939)
Agreed/directed salary expense level	13,776	14,165	389
Agreed/directed executive salary expense limit	265	268	3

Working cash targets

	2025-26 Agreed limit (\$000)	2025-26 Target/Actual (\$000)	Variation (\$000)
Agreed working cash limit (at Budget)	1,643	2,023	380
Agreed working cash limit (at Actuals)	1,593	2,023	430

Summary of key performance indicators

	2025-26 Target	2025-26 Actual	Variation
Outcome 1: The Western Australian community has access to the State Library’s collections, services and programs Key effectiveness indicator: Number of State Library accesses	5,269,410	5,617,451	7%
Outcome 1: The Western Australian community has access to the State Library’s collections, services and programs Key effectiveness indicator: Percentage of visitors who are satisfied with the State Library services	95%	91%	-4%
Service 1: State Library Services Key efficiency indicator(s): Average cost per State Library access	\$3.08	\$2.91	-6%
Outcome 2: The Western Australian community engages with public library collections, services and programs Key effectiveness indicator(s): Percentage of Western Australians that are a member of a public library	22%	23%	6%
Service 2: Public Library Support Key efficiency indicator(s): Average cost of Government support for public library services per public library member	\$26.44	\$24.73	-6%

Collecting activity at the State Library is guided by five core principles:

- 1

Every story matters
- 2

Collection efforts are proactive and responsive
- 3

Ethical and responsible collecting is paramount
- 4

Collections are accessible and open to all
- 5

Western Australian narratives are preserved for posterity

Strategic priority: Collect, preserve and share

Collection Strategy

The State Library’s Collection Strategy ensures both physical and digital acquisitions reflect the diversity of Western Australia while preserving cultural heritage for future generations. The State Library collects both historical and contemporary materials.

Significant acquisitions included procurement of prominent colonial history collections, including the Henry Charles Prinsep and Prinsep Family Archive. Acquisition of colonial archives and rare maps complement the existing materials in documenting life in Western Australia from early European arrival to the present day.

The State Library continues to place a focus on engagement with Aboriginal communities to ensure their perspectives, histories and creative expressions are respectfully represented. In 2025–26, this included acquisition of material representing Aboriginal land rights movements and records about members of the Stolen Generations from Western Australian Missions.

State Library collections bring the past and present of Western Australia into dialogue, including the stories that shape identity, truth-telling and understanding of place for all Western Australians.

The State Library is committed to truth-telling and rigorous interpretation of colonial historical records through both its collection activities and support for interpretive projects, such as the Dialogues 2029 program.

The State Library also acquired a variety of contemporary creative works including illustrations, film and videogames. These additions reflect contemporary forms of cultural expression in Western Australia and reflect the commitment to strengthening its visual and digital collections.



Significant acquisitions and Legal Deposit

Henry Charles Prinsep and Prinsep Family Archive

In July 2025, the State Library acquired a major collection of archival papers belonging to Henry Prinsep and his wider family. The archive is of historical significance to Western Australian colonial history and builds on the family archive already held at the State Library. The Prinsep family were a British imperial family whose extensive commercial networks reached between England, India and Australia.

Henry Charles Prinsep arrived in Western Australia from Calcutta, India, in 1866. In 1898, Prinsep was appointed the first Chief Protector of Aborigines. Prinsep’s appointment marked the beginning of a period of cultural and political violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Western Australia.

The addition of the archive will allow for further investigation into this significant period that continues to impact on the lives of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Prinsep established the Wilgie Sketching Club in 1890 with Margaret Forrest, Herbert Gibbs, George Temple Poole and Bernand Woodward. The group went on to become the Western Australian Society of Arts. The archive includes over 300 watercolour paintings and sketches that give significant insight into European visual art culture and practice during this time.

The Henry Charles Prinsep and Prinsep Family Archive contain over 3,000 items that document both the public and private lives of the Prinsep family in the 19th and 20th centuries and include manuscript material, correspondence, photographs, artworks, ephemera and published works.



The Henry Charles Prinsep and Prinsep Family Archive will provide more fulsome understandings of the Prinsep family’s presence and influence in Western Australian history and provide new possibilities for ongoing research into colonial and transnational relationships of the British Empire.



Other significant acquisitions



Dianne Ryder interview, 2025 | OH4810/7



A new series of seven video oral histories featuring Aboriginal war veterans’ stories produced in partnership with This Story with funding support from Lotterywest. Veterans interviewed include Bill Thompson, who was called up for National Service and served in Vietnam; Ron Bradfield Jnr, who served in the Army Reserve and the Navy; Harold ‘Woody’ Humes, who joined the Army at 17 and served for 20 years; Graham Taylor, who was deployed to Vietnam at age 19; Eric Oakley, who served for 20 years in the Army; Dianne Ryder OAM, who served for 20 years and retired as a Staff Sergeant; and Chris Proud, who entered the Navy as a junior recruit on HMAS *Leeuwin*.

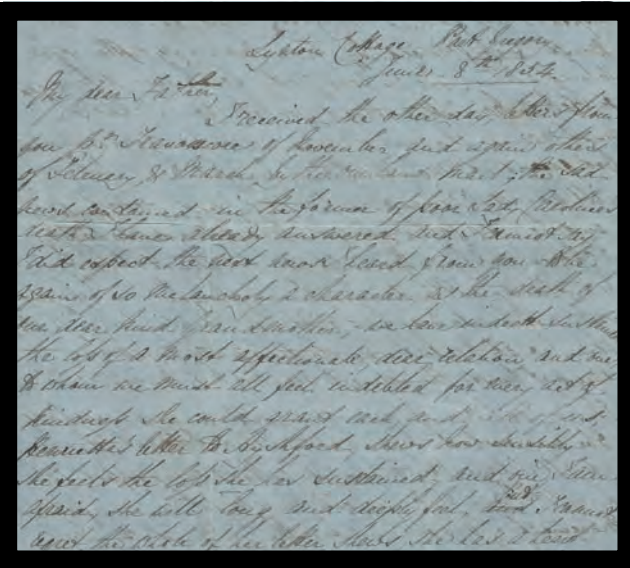
A collection of William Loaring’s (1898–1968) observations of the Darling Ranges, including field notes, photographs and drawings of various birds, insects and mammals local to the area. Loaring was a naturalist, photographer and founding member of the Western Australian Naturalists Club. The collection was generously donated by Loaring’s grandson, Kim Forrest.



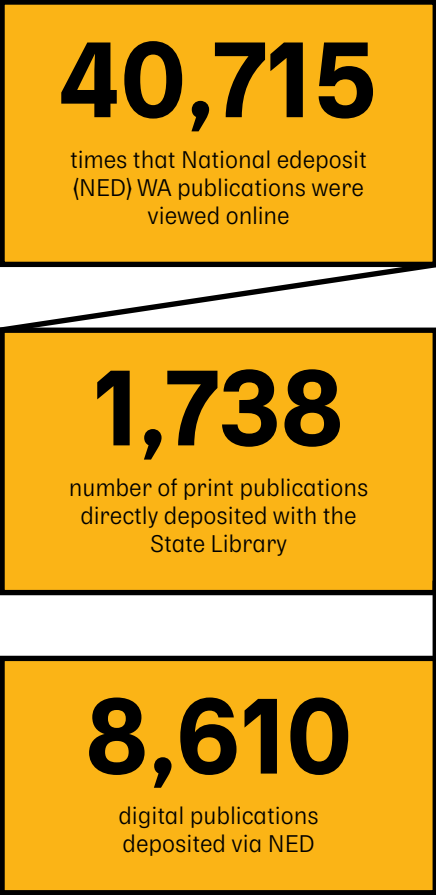
The Bardwell Archive is an extensive collection of correspondence, diaries, photographs, letter books, ledgers, publications and ephemera documenting the life and experiences of Captain Beresford Everett Bardwell (1890–1961). The archive records his active service during World War I, including his participation in the first Gallipoli landing, where Bardwell’s battalion was one of the first ashore. Returning to Australia in 1919, he relocated to Broome and operated a pearl lugger.

A previously unpublished private letter by Captain Henry Ayshford Sanford, dated 1854. Sanford served as Commandant of the Port Gregory Hiring Station and Sub-Collector of Customs and District Registrar between 1853 and 1854. The Sanford letter provides a first-hand account of the Port Gregory convict settlement north of Jambinu (given the English name Geraldton). The letter is a significant primary source that deepens existing records of colonial activity in Western Australia and the Bootenal Swamp massacre of 1854.

Letter from Captain Henry Ayshford Sanford to his father Edward Ayshford Sanford, 1854 | 10968AD



Highlights 2025–26



Legal deposit and National edeposit

Legal deposit is a statutory provision requiring publishers to deposit copies of their publications in a nominated collecting institute. The legal deposit system ensures that the works of authors and publishers will be preserved for present and future generations.

Western Australian authors and publishers have legal deposit obligations under the *Legal Deposit Act 2012* (WA) and the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth).

Print and digital publications are covered by legal deposit.

During the year, Western Australian authors and publishers deposited 1,738 print publications directly with the State Library.

Digital publications are deposited via the National edeposit (NED) service that continues to demonstrate the value of collaboration across Australia’s National, State and Territory libraries. NED provides shared infrastructure that supports the collection, preservation and discoverability of published digital content for the benefit of all Australians.

Western Australian publishers deposited 8,610 publications via NED. During the year, Western Australian NED deposit publications were viewed online 40,715 times.

This year, the program introduced improvements to streamline deposit processes for publishers while increasing efficiency, discoverability and long term value for libraries and users.

The State Library contributed to the NED service through representation on strategic and operational groups and continues to proactively work with Western Australian publishers to support compliance with legal deposit obligations under the *Legal Deposit Act 2012*.

Conserving and preserving State Library collections

Conservation highlights

During the year, staff conserved, stabilised and rehoused significant Western Australian heritage collection material to support long-term preservation, safe handling and improved access.

Conservation treatments addressed structural instability, mould, adhesive degradation and photographic deterioration, while custom rehousing and environmental mitigation reduced future risk and strengthened collection care.

Collection valuation

State Library collections are valued annually in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer’s Instructions. This ensures compliance and supports accountability for Western Australia’s cultural assets. Valuation provides an evidence base for financial reporting and forward planning for all facets of collection management, including risk management and other reporting requirements.

Collection valuation also deepens organisational knowledge of State Library collections by drawing on external expertise to identify significance and

other opportunities to improve collection access and promotion. The process also informs priorities for ongoing collection management and long-term preservation.

During the year, the State Library commenced a new five-year valuation cycle. The project began with a comprehensive valuation to establish updated baseline values for the collections.

Digital preservation capabilities

The State Library strengthened its digital preservation capability to further support the responsible stewardship of and access to materials created in a digital format.

Collections processing areas were relocated to bring staff processing digital collections into closer proximity with specialist expertise and equipment to improve workflows.

The State Library also invested in a bulk optical disc extractor. The extractor establishes new in-house capability to efficiently capture content from large volumes of legacy media, such as CDs and DVDs.

The relocation and the extractor reduce processing time for born-digital collections and streamline the secure transfer of digital content into assessment, preservation and access workflows.

Preserving the Lucy Serventy collection

Two conservators were engaged to undertake conservation treatment on selected items from the Lucy Serventy collection. The conservation was funded by a 2025 philanthropy campaign.

The conservation work focused on stabilising physically damaged material to enable safe handling, digitisation and future access. Treatments included surface cleaning and minor repairs to more complex interventive conservation.

Conservation also included digitisation and conservation handling support to enable safe access to the collection and to reduce the need to physically handle the original materials.



Other Conservation Highlights



William Kenna papers, 1870–1871, including a conditional pardon and kangaroo skin pouch. The Kenna papers were treated and rehoused in a custom archival box to improve long-term preservation.

Plan of the Wiluna-Kimberley stock route exploration, 1906–1907, by A. W. Canning. This plan is a significant cartographic record of early colonial inland exploration in Western Australia. The plan was treated to remove deteriorating adhesive tapes, stabilise tears and losses, and flatten distortions caused by earlier damage and repairs.

Richardson-Bunbury family papers (from 1837 to 1978), including photographs, certificates and works on paper. The papers were stabilised through treatments addressing adhesive residue, tape damage, surface grime and structural weaknesses.

Album of photographs of the Midland Railway Company tour to Northampton (1928). The album was rehoused to improve physical support and reduce further handling damage.

Robert McKay Thompson (1910–1970) papers. The papers were treated for mould, including surface cleaning. The archive was re-organised by size and type, while maintaining original numbering, then rehoused into new archival folders and custom-made boxes.

Album of photographs compiled by Ethelfreda Charlotte Bedford (1884–1972), daughter of Sir Frederick and Lady Ethel Bedford. The album was extensively treated to stabilise the album structure, repair damaged bindings and leaves, and consolidate fragile photographic emulsions for safe handling and access.



WA Reflections

In 2025, the State Library partnered with Screenwest for the third iteration of the documentary program WA Reflections.

WA Reflections supports early-to-mid-career filmmakers by providing up to \$25,000 in production funding for short documentary films, allowing them to creatively utilise items from State Library collections. The program provides income, experience and exposure for Western Australian filmmakers.



Love, Rock EN Masse, directed by Mahalia Bowles and Emma Wilkes. Exploring the 1970s rock music masses at St George’s Cathedral, the film tells the story of this cultural phenomenon and how it sought to redefine the relationship between faith and music for young people at the time.



A Search Beyond the Stars, directed by Luke Riches and Daniel Riches. A documentary that illuminates Western Australia’s remarkable contributions to global space exploration. The film elaborates on the link between Perth Observatory and the Wallal expedition; an international effort to photograph the 1922 solar eclipse and which proved Einstein’s theory of relativity.



The Road Ahead: A Story of Arnold Cook and the Guide Dogs Movement, directed by Claire Ha. The inspiring story of disability pioneer Dr Arnold Cook and his guide dog Dreena. Born in Western Australia in 1922 and diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, Dr Arnold Cook pioneered the guide dog movement with his companion Dreena, the first guide dog to arrive in Australia.

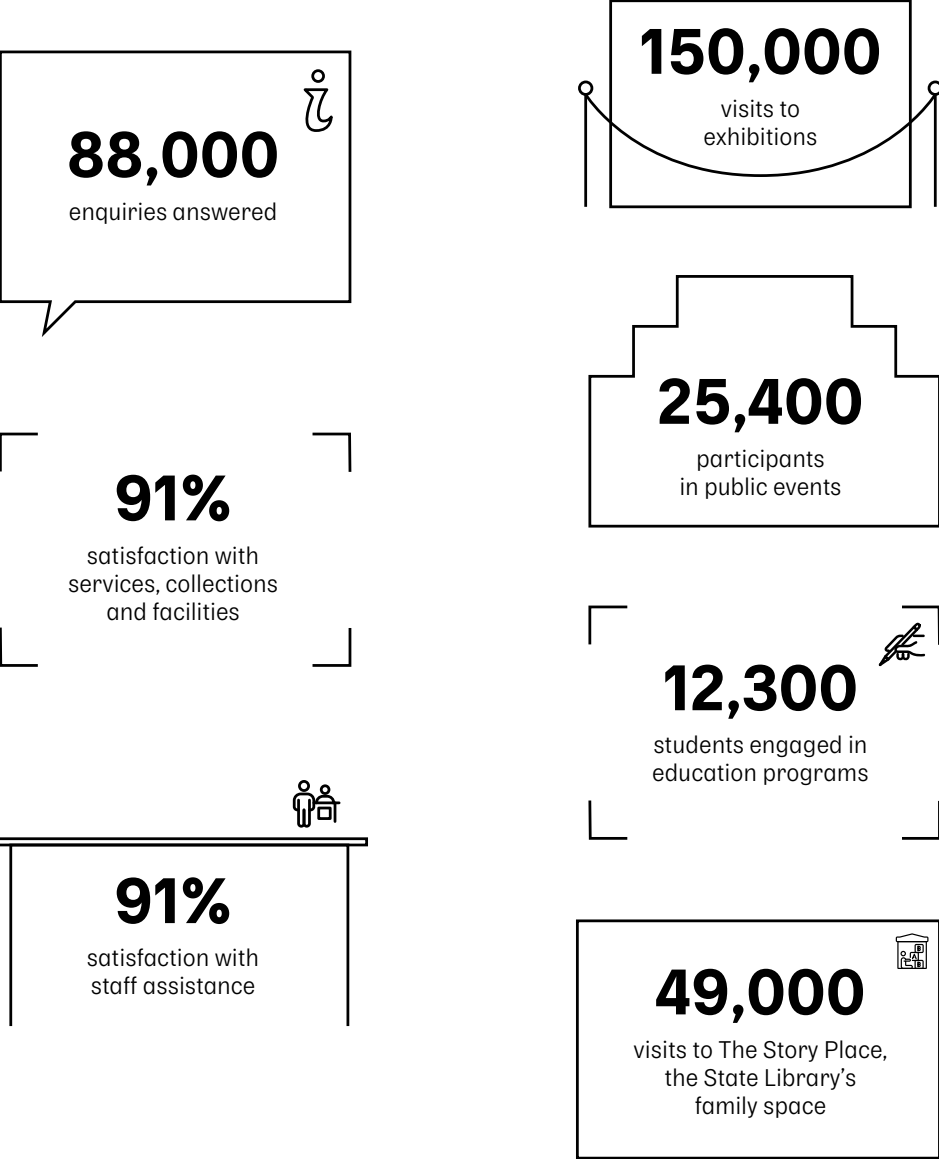


I’ve Never Seen a Straight Banana, directed by Marco Noe. Honours the legacy of “Australia’s Perfect Boy”, acclaimed vaudeville entertainer and male impersonator Effie Fellows (1893–1977). Born in Subiaco in 1893, Fellows went on to tour the world and was described by a New York newspaper as “one of the greatest boy impersonators in her line.”

Strategic priority: Responsive services

Library services for all Western Australians

The State Library provides information and reference enquiry services for everyone in Western Australia. In 2025–26 over 88,000 information and research enquiries were fulfilled and 2,461 Ask-A-Librarian online research assistant requests were completed. The State Library continued to make improvements to membership and borrowing processes to enhance accessibility, including a more streamlined membership renewal process.



Client feedback

Two client surveys were conducted during the year to measure how clients interact with and value collections, services and facilities. The surveys received a combined 2,092 responses. The State Library also received 247 submissions of general feedback from clientele.

Overall satisfaction with services, collections and facilities remained high at 91%. Satisfaction with staff assistance also remained high at 91%. Satisfaction with the State Library’s catalogue and website remained consistent at 81% and 85% respectively.

Feedback also acknowledged the significant value and convenience of free access to eBooks and eAudiobooks through State Library membership.

The most common reasons for visits to the State Library were browsing collections, reading, borrowing, using online services and viewing exhibitions. People between 55–64 years of age were the largest demographic, followed by people 65–74 years of age and people 35–44 years of age. Almost 3% of visitors to the State Library identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Many responses expressed appreciation for the provision of free access to various technologies, the diversity of the physical and digital collections and the expertise and friendliness of staff.

The importance of provision of public computer services was a recurring theme in survey responses. A full network upgrade occurred in August 2025 to ensure the ongoing security and availability of public computer services for the community.

The State Library also implemented a dedicated, accessible and safe feedback process for children and young people to encourage their input into the future of State Library services. The State Library continues to encourage ongoing feedback from the community to ensure library services are planned to best support the evolving needs of Western Australian people.

Engagement with Aboriginal culture

The State Library sits on Gooloogoolup; boodja of the Whadjuk Noongar people at Boorloo near the banks of the Derbal Yerrigan. Country has been the library for generations of Aboriginal people long before the establishment of the State Library in 1886.

Visitors to the State Library are welcomed by a mural of Joanne Parfitt’s (artist name Bungaan) artwork *My Turtle Dreaming*. In *My Turtle Dreaming* Joanne Parfitt tells her family stories of sharing knowledge around the campfire in her youth.

Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan

The State Library’s Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) focuses on building strong foundations and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and community. The Reflect RAP has four key focus areas:

- Relationships
- Respect
- Opportunities
- Governance

The State Library Reconciliation Action Plan Committee (RAP Committee) helps govern the implementation of RAP goals across the organisation.

Since the implementation of the Reflect RAP the State Library has focused on creating opportunities across its collections, programming and corporate services for meaningfully engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The State Library has produced numerous exhibitions, events, and workshops together with Aboriginal people and regularly engages with Aboriginal-owned businesses for services including publishing, exhibition and graphic design and security.

The State Library is looking ahead to the development of the next step in its reconciliation journey: the Innovate RAP. An Innovate RAP focuses on strengthening relationships with and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and piloting strategies for further reconciliation commitments.

Personal stories from Aboriginal voices were featured on the State Library Facebook feed alongside images from the collection. For NAIDOC Week 2025, the State Library welcomed Bardi Jawi Yawuru man Nolan Hunter and writer Bevan Carter for a panel event for staff, encouraging conversation and knowledge sharing on the theme of The Next Generation.

The State Library also hosted a screening of *Genocide in the Wildflower State*, an independent

Arthur from Waratah Cottage Methodist Mission
c1968 | BA3039/7/1045

documentary produced by YOKAI Healing Our Spirit. The film shines light on the ongoing impact of the state-run systematic removal of Aboriginal children from their families in Western Australia between 1905 and 1972. The practice was deemed genocidal following a national inquiry in 1997 (*Bringing Them Home Report 1997*).

Storylines

Storylines is an online archive that facilitates the return of photographs and materials to Aboriginal families and communities. Storylines is managed and hosted by the State Library and provides a culturally safe platform for communities to identify, reclaim and enrich historical collections. The Storylines archive holds over 1,600 items and has helped to identify 7,394 individuals within its collections.

Aboriginal Family History

A total of 15 Aboriginal Family History sessions were delivered to 241 participants. Sessions were held in the State Library building, alongside outreach and training sessions across Western Australia delivered in partnership with the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sports’ Aboriginal History WA team. Regional visits included Albany, Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community and Geraldton.



2026 Reconciliation Week – All In

At the State Library, the 2026 Reconciliation Week theme, ‘All In’, meant coming together with open hearts and shared purpose, creating welcoming spaces, honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and taking everyday steps toward reconciliation.

Stolen Generations survivor Tony Hansen delivered a moving talk to staff, sharing his personal story and hopes for the future. Afterwards, members of the State Library’s RAP Committee shared items from State Library collections that personally spoke to them about walking together.

Exhibiting Aboriginal Histories and Collections: looking backwards, looking forwards

In October 2025, the State Library delivered a masterclass featuring presentations from Deakin University Professor Gaye Sculthorpe, a Palawa woman, and University of Western Australia Professor Shino Konishi, a Yawuru woman. The talks were followed by discussion led by Professor Jane Lydon and Michelle Broun.

The event invited participants to reflect on how Aboriginal histories and collections have been represented, classified, and displayed, and to consider how these stories can be reclaimed, reinterpreted, and reframed through Aboriginal knowledge, voice and authority. The masterclass discussed how legacies of colonial collecting and exhibition practices are being challenged through contemporary research and offered new ways of thinking about how Aboriginal stories are held, interpreted, and shared by the State Library and other collecting institutions.

Vale Sam Lovell

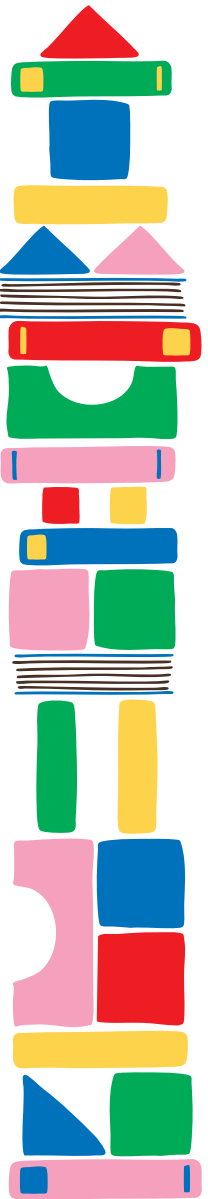
The State Library mourned the passing of legendary Kimberley tourism pioneer Sam Lovell AM on 15 November 2025. Lovell’s contribution to Aboriginal tourism, pastoralism, storytelling and music was celebrated in the State Library’s 2024–25 exhibition *Hello, this is Sam Lovell*.

Sam Lovell, Derby
Nic Duncan 2019 | BA3424/201



Fay Kickett in the blue top. Roelands Mission, 1959.
If you recognise anyone unidentified in this image, please
contact the State Library Storylines archive | BA1203/904





Children and families

The State Library supports Western Australian families to thrive.



Better Beginnings refresh

The Better Beginnings early literacy program celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2025. This milestone provided an opportunity to reflect on the program's legacy and its significant impact in delivering high-quality early literacy services to Western Australian families since its establishment in 2005.

In 2026, the State Library launched a new Better Beginnings brand and program changes, including new book boxes for Western Australian families and a redesigned edition of its flagship book *Baby Ways*. The updated brand features a bright, playful colour palette and logo that reflects the State Library's ongoing commitment to supporting Western Australian families with early literacy development for their children.

Better Beginnings is a family literacy program that connects families with books through free book boxes and resources. The goal of the program is to support literacy and learning outcomes for all Western Australian children by encouraging families to read, talk, sing, draw and play with their child every day.

Better Beginnings is a long-term partnership between the State Library, local governments, Child and Adolescent Community Health, WA Country Health Service, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Department of Education, with support from Rio Tinto.

Better Beginnings Community Grants

The annual grants program supports public libraries and community groups to deliver early reading and literacy activities tailored to their communities. Since 2021, more than \$1 million in grants has been awarded to successful applicants across Western Australia.

In 2025–26, Better Beginnings Community Grants were awarded to the value of \$197,979. A list of all recipients for the financial year is available on the State Library's website.



In 2025-26, the State Library introduced a program of school holiday activities for families. The program featured illustration workshops with award-winning Western Australian artists. Free sessions included drop-in story time, crafting and events in The Story Place Gallery.

The Story Place

The Story Place is the State Library’s learning and activity space for children, families and carers and includes an exhibition space, The Story Place Gallery. The Story Place supports the development of early literacy by encouraging families to share stories and learn and play with their children every day. During the year, The Story Place welcomed over 49,000 visitors.

Highlights from the year included special reading sessions with *Crunch Kaboom* author Conor Mills and a series of jungle-themed storytelling events over the school holidays to celebrate the *Monkey Business* exhibition in The Story Place Gallery.

The Story Place Gallery engages families and school groups throughout the year through a series of child-friendly, curated exhibitions drawn from State Library collections, particularly the Peter Williams Collection of picture book illustrations.



The exhibition program included *Book an Adventure: 80 Years of Australian Stories*, which showcased Children’s Book Council Australia (CBCA) shortlisted and award-winning artworks. *Monkey Business – It’s a Barrel of Fun!* provided an interactive early-learning experience featuring works by artists Sean Avery and Wendy Binks.



The Legend of Moondyne Joe exhibition presented new artwork acquisitions and draft materials from the Premier’s Book Award-winning picture book by Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac.

Throughout the year, The Story Place also hosted over 10,000 participants for weekly Rhyme Time, Story Time and Play Time sessions. These sessions include craft, play, singing and sharing and model early-learning literacy techniques for families to help build positive home reading practices.

Children’s Book Council WA Partnership Event

The Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) marked its 80-year anniversary in 2025. To celebrate, the State Library partnered with CBCA WA to deliver a Birthday Book Adventure Family Day in August 2025.

Aligned with its purpose to enrich young lives through stories and advocate for their transformative value across generations, the event featured a comprehensive program of authors, illustrators, storytelling sessions, and family activities, attracting over 700 attendees.

Complementing this event, the State Library created a window display facing the Perth Cultural Centre, showcasing original children’s book artwork from State Library collections and highlighting the history and impact of the CBCA. The Story Place Gallery hosted the Book an Adventure – 80 Years of Australian Stories exhibition, featuring original artworks from CBCA shortlisted and award-winning picture books.

Education Program

Education Program staff deliver metropolitan and regional workshops and events, guided tours, professional learning sessions, and exhibition-based learning experiences for kindergarten to tertiary based on State Library collections.

Also developed was a suite of resources aligned with Western Australian curriculum modules to support student learning and engagement with the exhibition program.

The Online Author Workshops for Regional Schools program, now in its second year, has continued to grow, establishing a strong and dedicated audience among remote and regional schools. In 2025–26, the program featured prominent Western Australian authors and illustrators, including Mark Greenwood and Kelly Canby. The program engaged over 3,000 students who may not otherwise have access to metropolitan literature events.

A further 5,000 metropolitan and regional students participated in a statewide online author event with esteemed Australian author Andy Griffiths. Feedback from regional students was extremely positive, further demonstrating the significant impact of regional programming for the Education Program.

The program saw an increase in engagement of 50% with tertiary group learning sessions, pre-service teacher seminars and tailored professional development opportunities.

Author talks

The State Library connects Western Australians with leading voices in contemporary writing in collaboration with partners including The Stella Prize, Centre for Stories and The Literature Centre. A diverse program of author talks, in conversations and panel events provide audiences with opportunities to engage directly with acclaimed local, national and international writers.

In collaboration with the Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival 2026, the State Library hosted numerous celebrated writers including crime writer Mick Herron (*Slough House* series), author and social commentator Kathy Lette, journalist Antoinette Lattouf and environmental campaigner Bob Brown.

The State Library is committed to providing a vibrant cultural meeting place, fostering discussion and connecting Western Australian readers with talented national and international storytellers.



English conversation classes

The Let's Chat! program is delivered in partnership with North Metropolitan TAFE, with support from Adult Migrant English tutors, State Library staff and volunteers. The classes are delivered as a walk in service and are designed to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for people to practice their English conversation skills.

During the year, the Let's Chat! program engaged 1,900 culturally and linguistically diverse participants.

Responses to the program have been overwhelmingly positive, with attendees reporting numerous benefits, including feeling more comfortable communicating in workplaces and everyday situations. Feedback demonstrates the program's ongoing positive impact on confidence, social inclusion and skill development for people in Western Australia.



Strategic priority: Public libraries

Statewide reach

The State Library partners with local governments to provide free public library services across Western Australia’s vast geographic regions. This includes the provision of collection materials, grant funding, support services and professional development for public library staff, ensuring equitable access to resources for all Western Australians.

During the year, State Library staff, including the CEO and State Librarian, visited libraries in regional locations including Esperance, Kojonup, Katanning, Bunbury, Northam, Toodyay, Calingiri and Bindoon. Metropolitan locations visited included Mundaring, Rockingham, Melville, Cambridge and Duncraig. The Library Board held a meeting at the new Dordaak Kepup Library and Youth Innovation Hub in the City of Wanneroo in May 2026. These engagements support the ongoing development of library services and foster professional connections that enhance service delivery.

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
Visits in person and online	12,608,876	12,850,931	14,736,490
Members	602,743	684,858	729,185
Physical items loaned	10,963,177	10,729,610	10,951,282
Online items downloaded	3,847,828	4,896,539	5,951,295
Number of library events offered to clients	51,130	51,580	63,191
Number of clients attending events	676,00	784,935	865,823

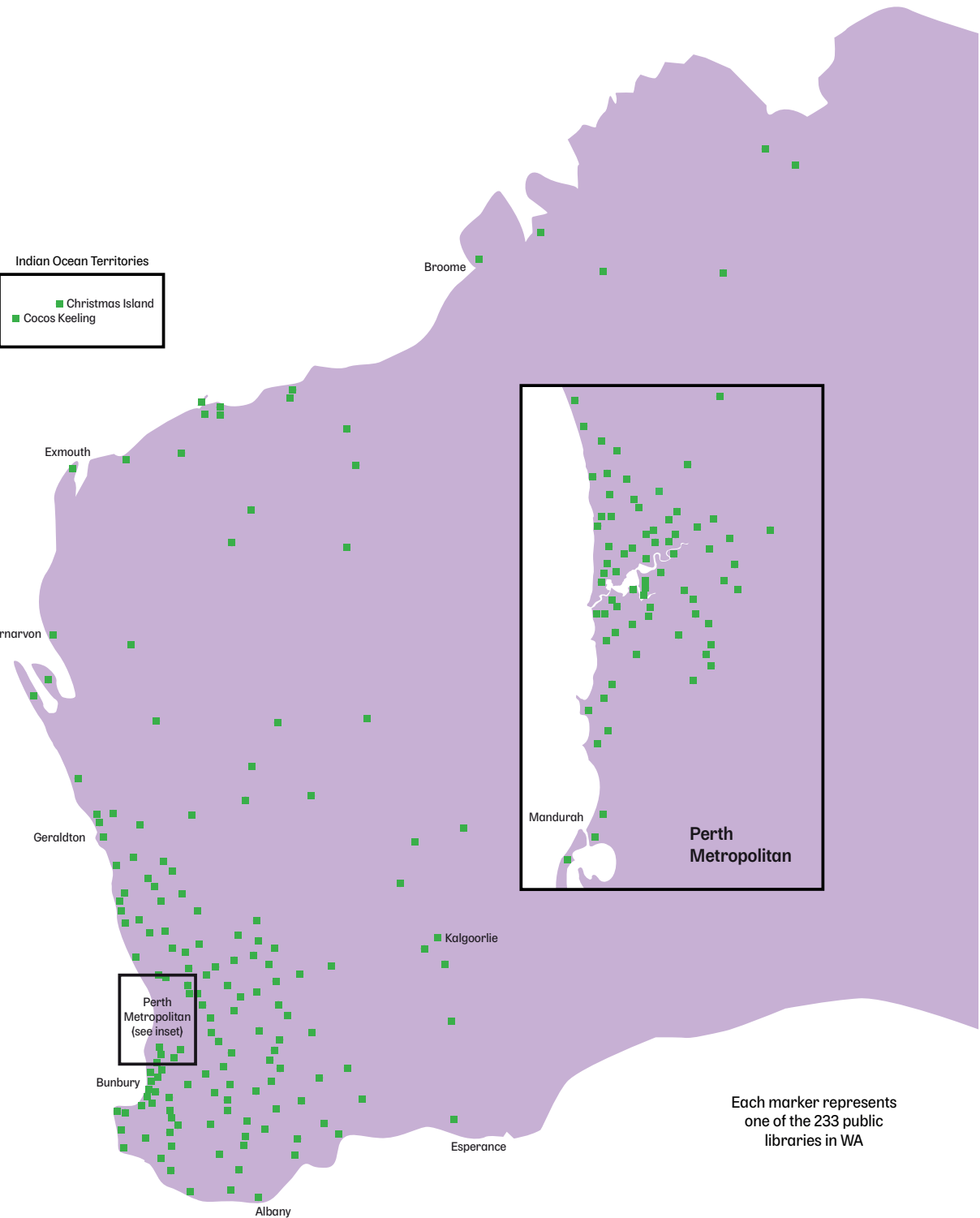
*Latest data provided by local governments

Public library online resources

Western Australian public library members, including those in the Indian Ocean Territories, continue to access for free a broad range of online resources provided under statewide licensing agreements, managed by the State Library. Online public library resources support equitable access to knowledge and services regardless of geographic location. Online resources are offered in many languages.

During the year, 2.4 million items were made available to any member of a Western Australian public library, giving access to a diverse and contemporary online collection. More than 5.9 million items were downloaded across the public library network. eAudiobooks accounted for 35%, eBooks for 30%, and eMagazines and eNewspapers for 33% of downloads. These figures demonstrate a strong ongoing demand for accessible online resources. Statewide downloads now make up more than 30% of all loans from Western Australian public libraries.

233
public libraries supported



Public library grants

The State Library encourages innovation and community engagement in the public library network by offering grants to support a range of projects and programs. In 2025–26, the State Library awarded \$154,945 in support for public library initiatives. Additionally, the State Library also provided \$14,364 in funding to support regional library staff attending professional development opportunities.

Library Priority Allocations are designed to enable local governments to better respond to the priorities of their communities in providing a 21st century public library service. In 2025–26 four applications were supported to a value of \$64,179.

Encouraging Promising Grants support projects and prototypes that extend the capacity of small regional public library services to enhance their communities through building literacy, learning and skill development and increasing access to and engagement with library services and materials. In 2025–26, nine applications were supported to a value of \$36,880.

Technology and Digital Inclusion Grants are designed to enable regional local governments to respond to digital disadvantage within their communities. In 2025–26, twelve applications were supported to a value of \$53,886.

Travel grants support the professional development of public library staff in regional and remote areas. Support is also available to help local governments to host regional conferences and training that provide professional development opportunities for public library staff. In 2025–26, thirteen applications were supported to a value of \$14,364.

A list of public library grant recipients in 2025–26 is available on the State Library’s website.

WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022–2026

The *WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022–2026* sets guiding principles to ensure all libraries in Western Australia continue to benefit people. The strategy endorses actions under its three guiding pillars: libraries strengthening communities, digitally inclusive libraries and public libraries valued as an essential community asset.

In 2025–26, the following actions were delivered under the strategy:

- The signing of the updated State and Local Governments Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia
- An outcomes survey for public library clients and members
- The drafting of a refreshed local level agreement with local government authorities in preparation for consultation with stakeholders

The current strategy will conclude in December 2026. Preparation of a new WA Public Libraries Strategy has commenced. The new strategy will take into consideration the impact of the outcomes of current strategy in its development.

Kay Poustie Scholarship

The Kay Poustie Scholarship is awarded annually to enhance public library services through evidence-based research and experiential learning in line with the *WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022–2026*. The scholarship is valued up to \$8,000 and is funded by partnership between the State Library, Public Libraries WA, ALIAWest and private donors.

The 2025 Kay Poustie Scholarship was awarded to Jesse Lee (pictured right). Lee’s project investigates the use of adaptive technology to enhance library service accessibility for visually impaired people. The work explores how the integration of AI technologies could support equitable access and encourage participation in library programs for visually impaired people.



Strategic priority: Foster sustainable operations

Philanthropy

During the year the State Library reinvigorated its philanthropic efforts with a goal of creating lifelong connections between the State Library and the people of Western Australia.

Giving at the State Library

The State Library reviewed its existing philanthropy systems to identify areas of improvement and new opportunities to enhance public access and engagement with collections and learning programs. The process included an extensive review of existing fundraising assets, infrastructure and acknowledgment and stewardship of existing donors.

The philanthropy review process led to the implementation of the new State Library Giving Program.

“I’ve loved knowing that my contributions will make a difference to how West Australian stories are being collected and shared with the world, and it is my hope that others might do the same for the benefit of all Western Australians and those who come to visit the West.”

Peter Williams, State Library donor

Giving Program

The Giving Program enables donors to contribute directly to priority areas of support that reflect the breadth of the State Library’s operations.

The Giving Program was launched in May 2026 at a bespoke philanthropy event hosted at the State Library, along with a giving brochure, updated website content and an end of financial year philanthropy campaign on social media.

The launch event, Collections After Dark was an expression of appreciation for donors to the 2025 Lucy Serventy Seaweed Scrapbooks appeal, which raised funds for preserving Serventy’s unique archive of Western Australian botanical illustrations and specimens.

The event celebrated the contributions of the State Library’s existing community of donors and acknowledged the beginning of a new chapter of philanthropy that will benefit generations of Western Australians.

The first major gifts to the new Giving Program were received during the year and will support literacy programming in public libraries across Western Australia.

More information on the Giving Program can be found on the State Library’s website. A list of significant donors can be found in the appendix of this report.

Year-on-year growth for philanthropy at the State Library in 2025–26 was

182%

Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a long-term partner in the Better Beginnings family literacy program, investing since the pilot in 2004 and continuing to support ongoing innovation and development.

Friends of Battye Inc.

A longtime supporter of the State Library’s J. S. Battye Library of West Australian History, Friends of Battye helped fund, via a bequest, a researcher in residence position in the At-Risk Audio-Visual Digitisation Project, to assist in making the material accessible to the community.

Areas of support:

Education and literacy

Thought leadership and collections research

Communities and access

Reading and writing

Aboriginal empowerment

WA family histories



Workplace inclusivity and diversity

The State Library is committed to fostering a diverse workplace that reflects and understands the people it serves. Creating and sustaining an inclusive and welcoming workplace positions the organisation to benefit from the broad range of skills and experiences of our people and ensure that the evolving needs of the community continue to be met.

Staff Culture Working Group

A Staff Culture Working Group commenced in 2025 and provides a representative voice for integrity matters and priorities related to staff culture at the State Library.

In February 2026, the Group conducted a series of in-person interviews with staff. The interviews discussed values, motivations and cultural expectations of people working at the State Library. Insights from these interviews will help inform a refreshed staff recognition program and guide ongoing advocacy for staff culture improvements.

Workforce diversity

People from diverse backgrounds work in various roles at different levels throughout the organisation. The State Library ensures that employment processes are inclusive by following standards set out by the Public Sector CSA Agreement 2024, the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*, the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* and public sector standards in human resource management.

As per the WA Government *Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy for the WA Public Sector 2020-25*, the following table identifies State Library outcomes against set aspirational targets for a diverse public sector workforce.

Training opportunities for community members

Volunteers

Volunteers contribute to the public value of the State Library across various programming and collections activities. In 2025-26, volunteers donated 3,738 hours of their time to the people of Western Australia. In financial terms, based on the recommended reporting method from Volunteering WA, volunteers at the State Library freely contributed \$180,000 to Western Australia.

In 2025-26, volunteer transcribers completed 62 hours of audio transcription of oral histories, improving accessibility to, and public discovery of, various recorded interviews. Volunteers also wrote detailed summaries of interviews that had previously lacked descriptive cataloguing.

Volunteers supported the reviewing and rehousing of items in the map and ephemera collections. Volunteers also contributed to major collection interpretation projects, including deciphering handwriting and itemising materials in prominent family archives.

Online volunteer contributions included text corrections of newspaper archives held on Trove and transcription of Western Australian agriculture stock books from 1894-1908. Volunteers also geolocated various images, including approximately 8,500 images of Albany in the lead-up to the acknowledgement of 200-years of European settlement in the region.

Volunteers supported various programming activities including Let’s Chat! English Conversation Classes and events for families in The Story Place.

The Library Board of Western Australia extends its gratitude to the community of volunteers at the State Library.

Family history

The State Library continues to support family history research. More than 1,200 requests for assistance were satisfied by State Library staff and volunteers from Family History WA.

Any visitor to the State Library can access the Find My Past service, Trove and the online library edition of Ancestry. These services are also made available at all Western Australian public libraries. In 2025-26, the State Library recorded 307,500 searches on the very popular Ancestry database.

Acknowledging 40 years of volunteer service from Family History WA (FHWA)

Members of FHWA began assisting in the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History in 1985. Since then, hundreds of FHWA volunteers have generously contributed their time to help thousands of researchers, both locally and internationally.

In recognition of the longstanding partnership delivering significant value to the community, FHWA was recognised as a Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia in 2021.

The Library Board of Western Australia gratefully extends its appreciation to Family History WA (FHWA) for 40 years of dedicated volunteer service in support of family history research.

Workforce diversity 2025-26

	Women in senior executive service roles	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	Culturally and linguistically diverse people	People with disability	Youth (under 25)
Aspirational target	50%	3.75%	15.5%	5%	5.8%
Number of staff at 30 June 2026	4	5	33	9	5
% representation	100%	3.3%	22%	6%	3.3%
	Target met	Target not met	Target met	Target met	Target not met

Access and inclusion



Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The State Library's *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2024-2028*, developed by staff and informed by community feedback, identifies key access and inclusion outcomes for the State Library. These outcomes guide the organisation in its work to create a safe, fair and equitable environment that is accessible to everyone.

Disability and inclusion initiatives delivered in 2025-26 include:

- The State Library participated in the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program; a global initiative to support people with less visible disabilities in communicating their need for support and understanding in public spaces.
- In November 2025, the State Library made available bags with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) iconography to support clients with neurodiversity and/or limited speech in engaging with State Library services. The launch of the bags aligned with the International Day of People with Disability.

- Scoping of building works to be commissioned with a view to improve accessibility of public toilets in the State Library building.
- Promoted training modules to staff focused on building staff knowledge to improve outcomes for clients with disabilities.
- Additional hand railings installed in the State Library Theatre to improve access to seating.
- The State Library administers funding for VisAbility to provide library services for people who are blind, vision impaired or who have a print disability, making books and other print materials accessible to individuals in their preferred format, such as talking books, braille or large print.

Dr Arnold Cook with guide dog Dreena c.1958 | BA3066/178



Multicultural Action Plan

The State Library's *Multicultural Plan 2023-2027* aims to create inclusive and welcoming communities for everyone to participate equitably, in all aspects of Western Australia's civic, social, economic and cultural life.

Key achievements and highlights delivered in 2025-26 include:

Policy Priority 1 – Harmonious and inclusive communities

- During the year, 100% of new staff completed online training modules on Accountable and Ethical Decision-Making and acknowledged the Code of Conduct. Also, 101 State Library staff (66%) completed the Office of Multicultural Interests's *Diverse WA* online training during the year. There were zero reports of breaches of the Code of Conduct by staff related to racism and discrimination.
- The exhibition *A Recipe for Life: The Food that Shapes Us* portrayed many historical and contemporary representations of Western Australia's cultural identity through the lens of food, including the influence of migrants across the decades and the growing social acceptance of multicultural flavours to create Western Australia's vibrant and diverse food and hospitality industries we enjoy today.

- Some collection acquisitions focusing on CaLD communities included rare photographic documentation of the 1984 Indian Ocean Festival and Perth's historic Metropolitan Markets. New oral history acquisitions included interviews with Ukrainian migrants and their memories of the Holodomor, a widespread man-made famine in Soviet Ukraine from 1932 to 1933 and their migration experience and lives in Western Australia.
- There were 14 social media posts presenting the lives and memories of CaLD individuals and communities. Created from oral histories from State Library collections, stories featured included Croatian migrant Zoran Panzich who came to Western Australia in the 1950s and settled in Manjimup and German-born August Goerling and his wife Kathe who bought land in the Murchison District in the early 1900s.

Policy Priority 2 – Culturally responsive policies, programs and services

- The State Library's regular Let's Chat English conversation sessions attracted 1,897 participants.
- Statewide, there are over 496,000 unique public library titles in over 110 languages. One example, LOTE4Kids, is an online resource available to library members throughout

Western Australia that helps children develop reading and writing skills in a wide range of languages. LOTE4Kids offers over 9,600 titles in 112 languages.

- During the year, there were more than 58,000 loans of physical LOTE resources and 20,300 loans of LOTE eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines across the major digital platforms Libby, BorrowBox, Hoopla and LOTE4Kids. The top five most frequently borrowed languages on these platforms were German, French, Spanish, Afrikaans and Chinese.
- 38 staff attended recruitment process training sessions on unconscious bias.

Policy Priority 3 – Economic, social, cultural, civic and political participation

- 22% of State Library staff have indicated they are from CaLD backgrounds, exceeding the Public Sector Commission's agency target of 15.5% and the State Library's Multicultural Plan target of 17.7%.

Closing the Gap

The State Library contributed to the fulfillment of the following Outcomes of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap:

Outcome 3

Children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years

Outcome 4

Children thrive in their early years

The State Library’s Better Beginnings family literacy program includes a sub-program, Little Fulla Yarns, that supports Aboriginal families to read, yarn, sing, draw and play every day as an essential part of early childhood literacy and preparation for school. Better Beginnings also provides grants to community groups to develop and support community based early childhood learning initiatives.

During the year, the following organisation received funding:

Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd (community organisation) for the development of *Janigun: at the Beach*, a new children’s picture book that will encourage parents and educators to talk and learn Yawuru with children and students with English translation. An audio book will be a complimentary addition to the hard copy picture book.

Outcome 14

People enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing

The State Library’s exhibition program included two community-led exhibitions: *Hello, this is Sam Lovell*, that closed in early 2025–26, and *Kinjarling Djinnang Ngalak: Country Sees Us*, that opened in May 2026.

Outcome 15

People maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters

Outcome 16

Cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing

The State Library’s Storylines Online Archive is a secure online platform that provides a responsive and culturally sensitive approach to accessing the State Library collections.

Media and social media continue to be integral tools for sharing collections. The online community has grown to over 104,000 followers. Over the last year, posts have reached 7.5 million people, with engagement numbers surpassing 1.65 million.

Notably, some of the most popular posts feature the oral histories of Aboriginal people. These posts have given the State Library the opportunity to amplify Aboriginal voices by sharing their stories in their words. This has also provided a platform for family members to contribute and add their own memories and photographs.



Governance



Enabling legislation

The Library Board of Western Australia is constituted under the authority of the *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951*, listed as a Statutory Authority in Schedule 1 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and is subject to the provisions of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Responsible Minister

The Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Creative Industries, is responsible for the Library Board of Western Australia, which has oversight of the management of the State Library of Western Australia.

Library Board of Western Australia

The *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951* states that the Library Board shall consist of 13 members; 11 are appointed by the Governor for four years and are eligible for renomination at the end of their term of appointment.

The Board met on six occasions and carried out its responsibilities in line with relevant legislation, the Library Board Charter and the Library Board Code of Conduct.

Library Board members

Position title	Member name	Initial appointment	Period of membership in 2025-26	Meeting attendance*	Type of remuneration	Base salary sitting fee	Gross/actual remuneration**
Chairman	John Day	Appointed in 2019, term ends 2027	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	6	Yearly	\$37,353	\$37,234
Vice Chairman	Jenny Archibald	Appointed in 2018, term ends 2026	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	6	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meetings	\$5,841
Member	Chad Anderson	Ex Officio	04/08/2025-30/06/2026	5		\$0	\$0
Member	Sandy Anghie	Appointed in 2022, term ends 2026	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	4	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meetings	\$0
Member	Dene Cranwell	Ex Officio	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	5		\$0	\$0
Member	Jodie Holbrook	Appointed in 2023, term ends 2027	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	6		\$0	\$0
Member	Matthew Gilfellon	Appointed in 2020, term ends 2028	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	5		\$0	\$0
Member	Ben McKay	Appointed in 2024, term ends 2028	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	6		\$0	\$0
Member	Anna Moulton	Appointed in 2021, term ends 2029	01/07/2025-09/08/2025 19/08/2025-30/06/2026	6	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meetings	\$4,398
Member	Wayne Scheggia	Appointed in 2020, term ends 2028	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	4 + 1 leave of absence	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meetings	\$3,612
Member	Narelle Thorne	Appointed in 2024, term ends 2028	01/07/2025-30/06/2026	4	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meetings	\$3,759
Member	Constance Wiebrands	Appointed in 2021, term ends 2029	01/07/2025-15/11/2025 16/12/2025-30/06/2026	5	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meetings	\$5,663
Member	Mayor Gary Mack	Appointed in 2025, term ends in 2029	16/12/2025-30/06/2026	2	Per meeting	\$537 half day \$309 half day for Committee meetings	\$0
Member	Lanie Chopping	Ex Officio	01/07/2025-03/08/2025	0		\$0	\$0
Member	Michelle Brennand	Appointed in 2021, term expired in 2025	01/07/2025-09/08/2025	1		\$0	\$0

*out of the six meetings held in 2025-26 ** in 2025-26, does not include superannuation

Image over page (left to right): Gary Mack, Ben McKay, Dene Cranwell, Catherine Clark (Executive Officer), John Day (Chairman), Anna Moulton, Constance Wiebrands, Chad Anderson, Jodie Holbrook, Jenny Archibald (Vice Chairman) and Sandy Anghie | March 2026
Absent from photograph: Narelle Thorne, Wayne Scheggia and Matthew Gilfellon

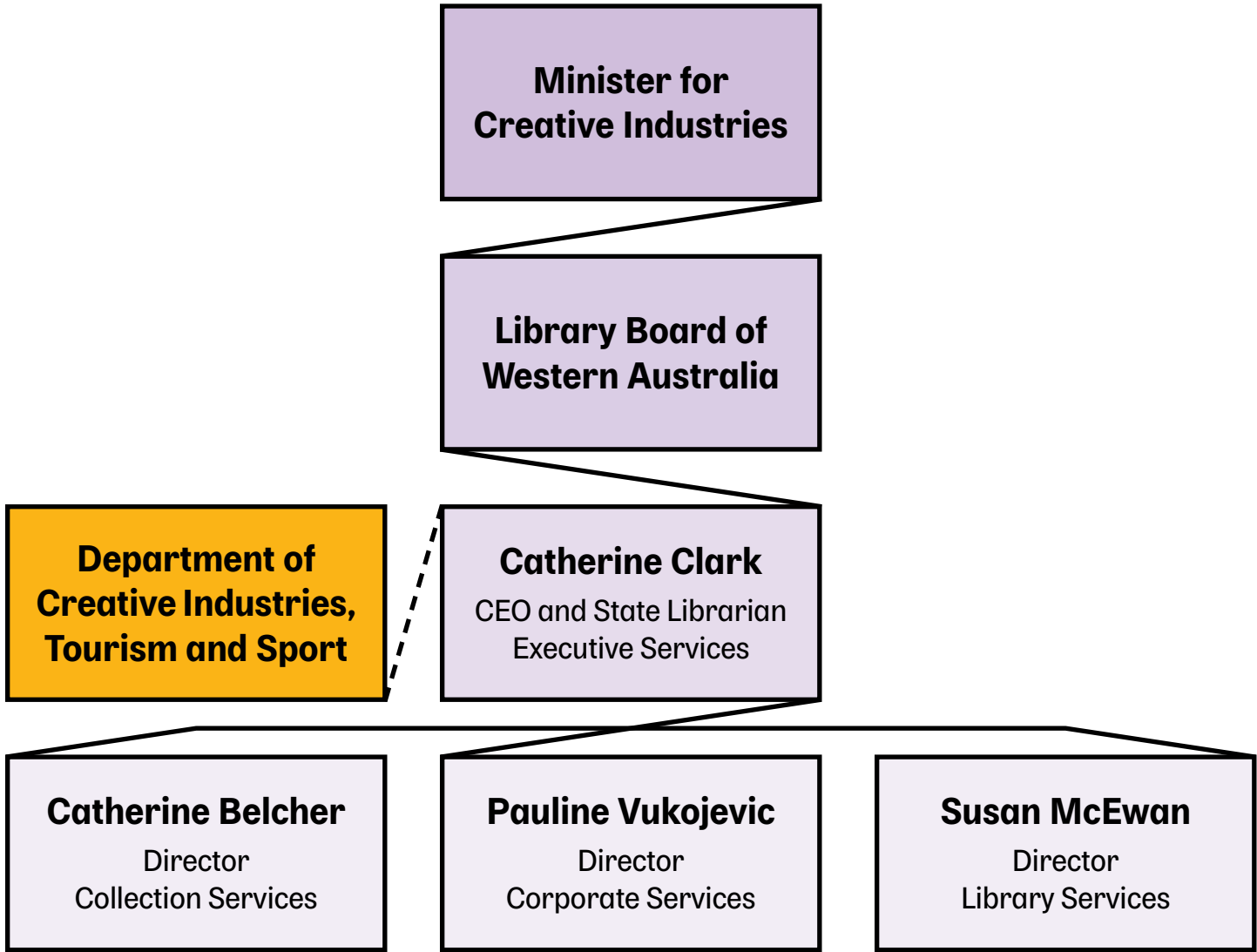
Payments made to Library Board members

In accordance with Premier’s Circular 2025/15, certain Board members are eligible for remuneration. Eligible members received total remuneration of \$60,507 in 2025–26. The Library Board was listed on the register of Government Boards and Committees published by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Library Board committees

Committee	Purpose	Chair	Member name	Executive Officer	Observers
Finance Met 4 times during 2025–26	Assists in the effective discharge of the Board’s statutory financial responsibilities and provides strategic advice on key performance measures and financial matters	Constance Wiebrands	Dene Cranwell and John Day	CEO and State Librarian	Director Corporate Services Chief Finance Officer
Audit and Risk Met 4 times during 2025–26	Oversee the audit and risk management functions of the State Library	Matthew Gilfellon	Wayne Scheggia, Jenny Archibald and Reny Varkey	CEO and State Librarian	Office of the Auditor General Director Corporate Services Internal Auditor
Policy and Legislation Met 2 times during 2025–26	Advises on matters affecting Board legislation and Library policy	Jodie Holbrook	Ben McKay and Sandy Anghie	CEO and State Librarian	Manager Policy and Research

Organisational Structure at 30 June 2026



Functional Structure

The State Library of Western Australia is responsible to the Library Board of Western Australia through the CEO and State Librarian who is the Executive Officer of the Board. The State Library is a statutory authority within the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport.

Organisational Structure

As of 30 June 2026, the State Library operates under a structure of business units as follows.

Executive Services, responsible for:

- Support for the CEO and State Librarian and the Library Board of Western Australia
- Advice to the Minister for Creative Industries
- Leading strategic planning
- Philanthropy
- Aboriginal engagement
- Policy development and review
- Governance and internal audit

Collection Services, responsible for:

- Development and management of physical and digital collections and associated data
- Collections activity includes acquisition, processing, storage, preservation, digitisation, distribution and access
- Management of the acquisition of materials for 233 Western Australian public libraries (including the Indian Ocean Territories)

Corporate Services, responsible for:

- Financial management
- Human resources management
- Risk management
- Administration of State Library specific applications and systems

Library Services, responsible for:

- Community services that inspire creativity, curiosity and support for literacy and learning at every stage of life
- Interpretation and community engagement with State Library collections
- Provision of specialist information, research services and educational programs to members of the public
- Communications and marketing

Left to right: Pauline Vukojevic, Catherine Clark, Susan McEwan, Catherine Belcher



Administered legislation

Legal Deposit Act 2012
Legal Deposit Regulations 2013

Administered by the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport

Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951
Library Board (Conduct of Proceedings) Regulations 1955
Library Board (Registered Public Libraries) Regulations 1985
Library Board (State Library) Regulations 1956

Other key legislation impacting the agency

Auditor General Act 2006
Classifications (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (Commonwealth)
Copyright Act 1968 (Commonwealth)
Disability Services Act 1993
Electoral Act 1907
Equal Opportunity Act 1984
Financial Management Act 2006
Freedom of Information Act 1992
Industrial Relations Act 1979
Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993
Procurement Act 2020
Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003
Public Sector Management Act 1994

Salaries and Allowances Act 1975
State Records Act 2000
State Superannuation Act 2000
Work Health and Safety Act 2020
Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023

Changes in written law

The *Copyright Amendment Act 2026* (Cth), which came into effect on January 1, 2026, introduced changes to the Australian copyright framework that are important to collecting institutions. An orphan work is one where the creator of the work is unknown. The State Library holds thousands of collection items that are considered orphan works. Under the new legislation, an orphaned works scheme has been introduced that limits the remedies available for infringing uses providing that the collecting institution has conducted a reasonably diligent search for the copyright owner. This provides greater legal certainty for the State Library when making orphan works available to the public.

Risk management

The Library Board has oversight of risk management through its Audit and Risk Committee, which annually reviews the Strategic Risk Register.

The Operational Risk Register and the Work Health and Safety Risk Register are reviewed regularly at the Risk Management Committee and Executive Risk Management Committee meetings. All State Library directorates monitor controls and develop treatment action plans as required.

The annual audit of the Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators was undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General.

Internal audit

In compliance with Section 53(1)(d) of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and *Treasurers’ Instruction 10*, the Library Board of Western Australia has established and maintains an independent and effective internal audit function to improve governance, integrity, risk management and internal controls within the organisation.

The role of the internal audit is contained in the Audit Charter as approved by the Library Board. To fully comply with revised *Treasurers’ Instruction 10*(1.5). The Audit and Risk Committee is independently chaired by a suitably qualified person who is not employed within the State Library of Western Australia.

The internal audit function completed various planned and ad hoc audit assignments during the year. The Audit and Risk Committee completed and reviewed a combination of audits as per the

approved risk-based strategic audit plan and audits initiated by executive management.

Meaningful and practical internal audit recommendations were made in several areas including the Risk Cover Self Insurance Risk Declaration and the ongoing monitoring of controls in respect of effective management of State Library heritage collections and procurement processes. Senior Management has since adopted and implemented all the audit recommendations. The internal audit function at the State Library also completed a self-assessment to determine conformance with every standard of the Global Internal Audit Standards.

The Senior Management regularly compares its internal controls against the findings highlighted by the reports of the Office of the Auditor General and the Crime and Corruption Commission in respect of other Western Australian government agencies. This exercise informs the ongoing review of internal controls.

Integrity strategy

The State Library continued to work towards implementing the Western Australian Government’s Embedding Integrity: Integrity Strategy for WA Public Authorities 2024–28. The strategy focused on four key improvement areas with actions and controls to promote integrity and

help prevent misconduct and corruption. The Integrity Governance Framework continues to mature as integrity activities become business as usual across the organisation.

Most significantly, during the year, an Integrity and Ethics survey was completed by almost 60% of staff. The survey results demonstrated a high level of awareness of, and practice of, ethical behaviour across the organisation. Survey data gathered will inform information and training made available to all staff.

Environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability was identified as a priority focus area under the *Strategic Plan 2024–2027*, recognising the need to ensure the organisation remains resilient and fit for purpose in a changing environmental, regulatory and financial landscape.

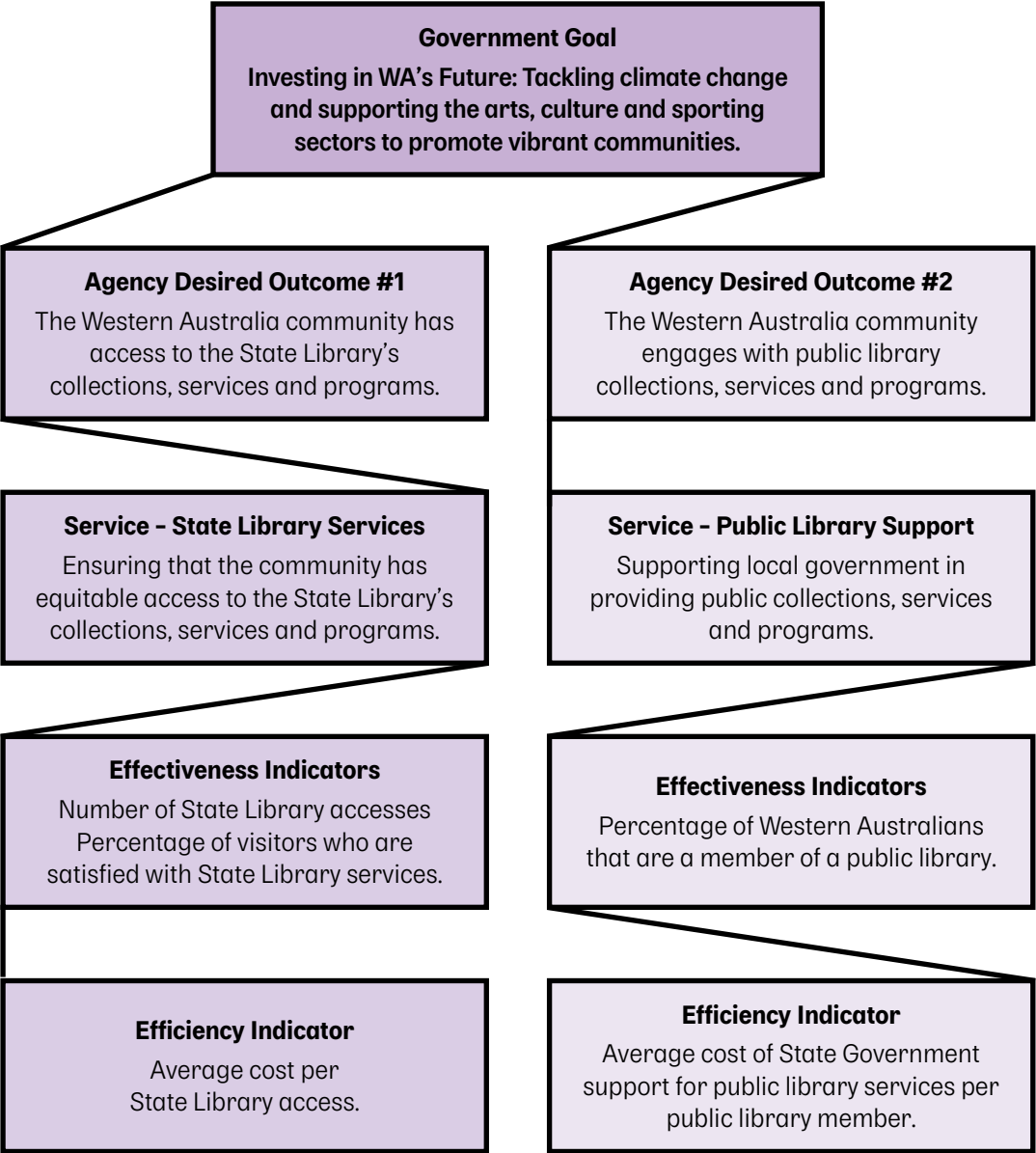
In 2025, the State Library developed its first Environmental Sustainability Strategy, establishing a formal and structured framework to guide sustainability activities across the organisation. The Strategy provides a consistent approach to assessing environmental performance, identifying risks and opportunities, aligning initiatives with relevant sector standards, and supporting informed investment, governance and operational decision-making.

As a significant consumer of energy, materials and services, the State Library acknowledges its responsibility to minimise environmental impacts and contribute to sustainable outcomes for the community. The Library Board approved a staged approach to developing and implementing sustainability initiatives.

Phase 1: Investigation and Baseline Development was delivered by 30 June 2026 and focused on establishing a baseline understanding of the State Library’s environmental performance. A high-level review of operational practices and building use identified potential low-risk, high-value opportunities for improving resource efficiency and reducing environmental impact. The assessment highlighted the importance of undertaking a structured energy audit to provide a robust evidence base for future planning and prioritisation.

The findings from Phase 1 will inform Phase 2, which will involve the development of a prioritised Sustainability Implementation Plan to support the delivery of measurable and achievable sustainability outcomes over time.

Outcome-based management framework



Changes to outcome-based management framework

The State Library’s outcome-based management framework was not changed for 2025–26.

Significant issues impacting the State Library

Maximising the use of Western Australian government assets

The State Library building opened in 1984 and requires modernising to meet community expectations of contemporary library services.

The State Library will continue to pursue opportunities to secure this outcome.

Strengthening democracy

Libraries are essential democratic institutions that provide free access to information, inclusive spaces for engagement with knowledge and ideas, and platforms for community engagement.

The State Library will continue to support social cohesion, truth-telling and trust in the community through collections, services and programs that facilitate intellectual freedom and community engagement.

Workforce planning and development

The rapidly evolving context in which the State Library operates increasingly requires new and emerging skillsets.

Addressing this issue will require staff development and recruitment to further build a flexible, adaptable and resilient workforce.

Digital transformation

Statutory obligations and community expectations regarding access to State Library collections and services requires digital transformation due to the age and functionality of many library specific digital systems.

The State Library has commenced a project to define current and future system requirements that will inform an organisation modernisation agenda.

Cyber security

The State Library has a legislated obligation to the community to collect, keep safe and make available information, including digital information, now and in the future.

The State Library will continue to work with the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport to detect and prevent unauthorised access to its systems and data.

Shared responsibilities with other agencies



The State Library engages in cross agency initiatives as follows:

Delivery of public library services

Western Australian local governments and Indian Ocean Territories

Delivery of the Better Beginnings family literacy program

Local governments, Child and Adolescent Community Health, WA Country Health Service, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Department of Education

Information and communication technology, human resources, building maintenance, financial processing and payroll

Provided in collaboration with the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport

Shared library management system

Department of Health and a selection local government public libraries

Co-located information services

Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport’s State Records Office and Aboriginal History WA for access to published materials and private archives from the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History and Government records from the State Records Office. Access and research services for Aboriginal historical records are also available. The J.S. Battye Library is part of the State Library, named after Dr Battye, who was its first Chief Librarian.

Digital literacy and family history programs

Department of Justice, various other State and Commonwealth Government agencies.

Digital Inclusion Blueprint

Office of Digital Government and a range of State Government agencies and local government

Information and reference services

Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Treasury and Finance and the Public Sector Commission

Internal audit

Art Gallery of Western Australia and the Western Australian Museum

Provision of office space

Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, Aboriginal History WA and the State Records Office of Western Australia

Support for the Adult Migrant English Program

North Metropolitan TAFE



Disclosures and legal compliance

Ministerial directives

No ministerial directives were received in 2025–26.

Other financial disclosures

Pricing policies of services provided

Fees are collected for a variety of services at the State Library including printing, copying, scanning and venue hire. All fees and charges are reviewed annually using approved methods and adjusted according to Department of Treasury and Finance advice. Information about fees and charges for services including equipment hire, venue hire and copying of collection items is available on the State Library’s website.

Capital works

Capital expenditure in 2025–26 came to a total of \$1.181 million against a total revised budget of \$1.225 million. Capital funds were predominantly spent on acquiring general reference and Western Australian materials for State Library collections.

Advertising, market research, polling and direct mail expenditure

In accordance with Section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the State Library incurred the following expenditure in media and recruitment advertising. Total expenditure for 2025–26 was \$14,049.

Expenditure	Organisation	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
Advertising agencies	Philanthropy Australia	\$330	\$8,529
	Seek	\$6,059	
	ALIA	\$2,140	
Market Research organisations	–	–	–
Polling organisations	–	–	–
Direct Mail organisations	–	–	–
Media advertising organisations	Meta	\$5,520	\$5,520
Grand Total			\$14,049

Unauthorised use of credit cards

The State Library recouped a total of \$253.10 after one employee used their purchase credit card for private purposes. All money has been repaid. These matters were referred to the Chief Finance Officer of the State Library and the accountable authority in line with the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport’s policy.

Employment and industrial relations

Staff profile

The full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing at 30 June 2026 was 130.2 compared to 138.52 for the previous financial year. The table below shows the total number of staff by employment type:

Headcount	2024	2025	2026
Permanent full-time	92	94	89
Permanent part-time	41	40	34
Fixed term full-time	6	9	16
Fixed term part-time	5	10	3
Casual	2	4	9
Total Headcount	146	157	151

Staff development

The State Library provided a range of training and professional development opportunities for staff throughout the year. These training opportunities contribute to the commitment to building an informed, safe and respectful workplace.

The State Library has a mandatory comprehensive induction program for new staff including both face-to-face and online training.

Modules include training on the Code of Conduct, Accountable and Ethical Decision Making, Emergency Response Procedures, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness, Work Health and Safety, Disability Awareness and the WA Public Sector Induction.

In May 2026, the Public Sector Commission’s Skills Academy launched mandatory recruitment training for staff that participate in selection panels, designed to support the launch of the new public sector recruitment rules commencing 1 July 2026.

During 2025–26, the State Library introduced LinkedIn Learning as a new resource to assist individual self-paced learning based on Professional Development Plans.

LinkedIn Learning material, alongside training resources available through ULearn and the Skills Academy, provide an extensive library of self-directed training for all staff.



Work health and safety and injury management

The State Library is committed to ensuring that all staff, clients, volunteers and contractors are safe. The organisation has developed various practices and procedures compliant with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* to address hazards and minimise risk and injury in the workplace.

The State Library’s Work, Health and Safety Committee met six times. The Committee provides a consultative staff forum to address safety and health issues before and after they arise.

During the year, a Work Health and Safety Manual was finalised to further support the health and safety of all clients and staff.

In March 2026, the State Library reviewed its Manual Task Training Participants’ Manual and delivered three manual task training sessions. These sessions were designed for staff involved in manual handling and focused on injury prevention principles, equipment use and managing repetitive movements.

Workers’ compensation

The State Library is committed to supporting workers injured at work. Workers’ compensation is managed in accordance with legislative requirements, whole-of-government frameworks and in line with medical advice. The State Library actively manages claims, implements early intervention practices and facilitates return to work programs.

The State Library works closely with insurers to ensure timely support for injured workers and to minimise the impact of workplace injuries on both employees and organisational operations.

During 2025–26, there was nil total lost time to injury days reported.

Other legal requirements

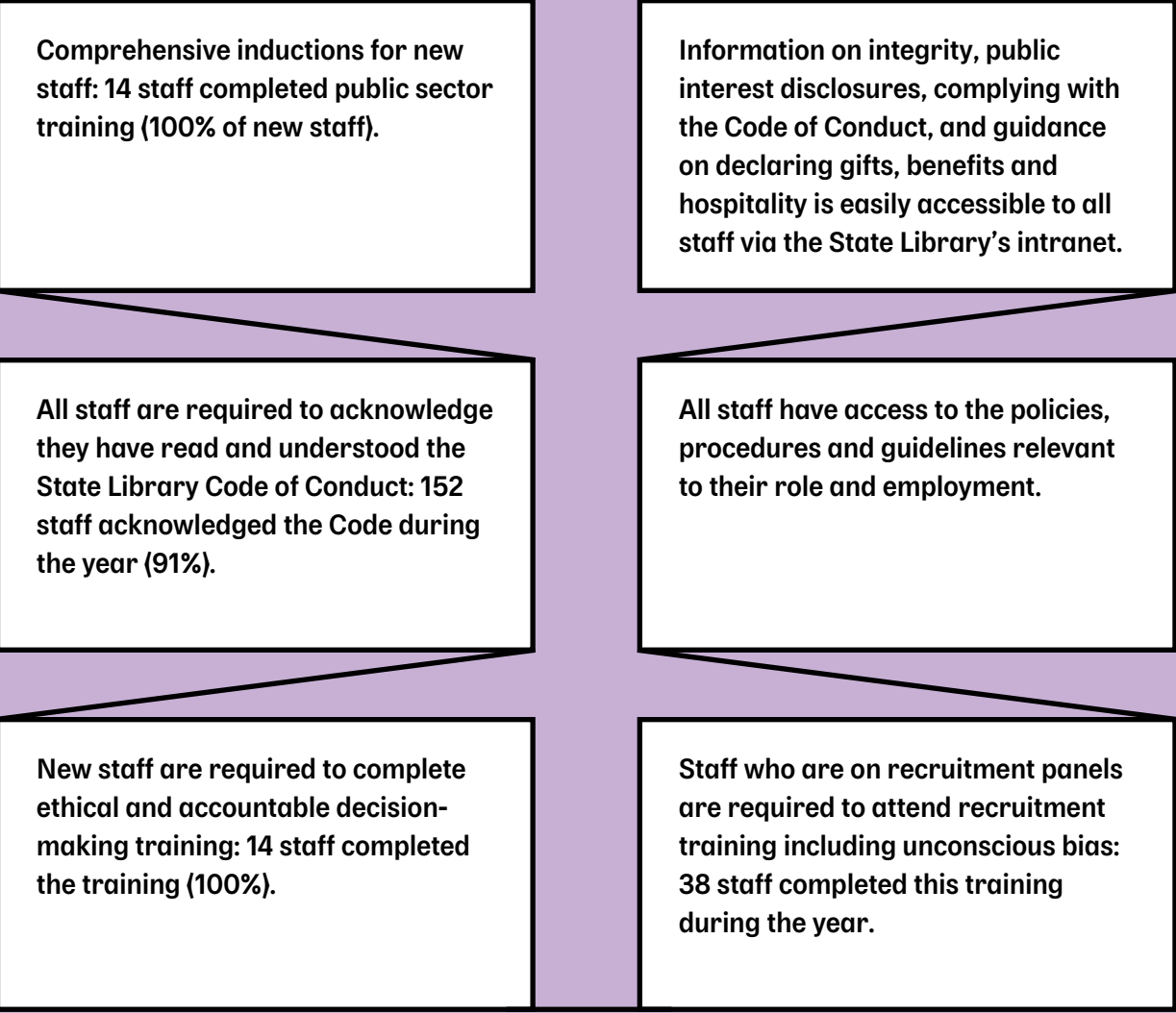
Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

The State Library worked in partnership with the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport to ensure compliance with legislative and public sector standards and ethical codes.

In 2025–26, the State Library recorded:

- No breaches of the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management
- No breaches of the State Library’s Code of Conduct
- No formal grievances
- No Public Interest Disclosures

Some of the actions undertaken by the State Library to promote accountable and ethical practice include:



Recordkeeping Plan

The State Library has a Recordkeeping Plan in accordance with section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000*. The State Library’s Recordkeeping Plan was registered by the State Records Office in 2022–23.

The Recordkeeping Plan is reviewed every five years or if there is a significant change in the organisation’s functions. The efficiency and effectiveness of the State Library’s recordkeeping systems is also evaluated at least once every five years.

All staff are provided with information on responsibilities for both digital and hard copy recordkeeping. The State Library induction program provides clarity on role-specific recordkeeping in compliance with the Recordkeeping Plan.

In 2025–26, the State Library:

- Introduced mandatory completion of the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport’s self-led recordkeeping training delivered through ULearn. The efficiency and effectiveness of this training program is reviewed regularly.

- Progressed the historical corporate records digitisation project that aims to digitise all files pertaining to State Library collections material. Files being digitised include records of donations and Deeds of Gift for donations.
- Combined with a continued reduction in the creation of new physical files, the digitisation of incoming hard copy correspondence has contributed to a smaller physical footprint for corporate records and lower costs for stationery and storage.

Insurance

Insurance premiums were paid to indemnify any director against a liability incurred under Sections 13 and 14 of the *Statutory Corporations (Liability of Directors) Act 1996*. The amount paid for directors and officers liability insurance for the period of 11 November 2025 to 11 November 2026 was \$8,024.50. The total is inclusive of all statutory fees and charges.

Notifiable data breaches

No notifiable data breaches occurred during the reporting period.

National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme is an Australian Government program focused on providing redress to victims of child sexual abuse in Australia. In 2025–26, the State Library responded to 172 requests for information and contributed 530 hours to research and facilitation of these requests. The State Library provides access to records in its collections to assist redress processes in accordance with the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018*.

Financial statements

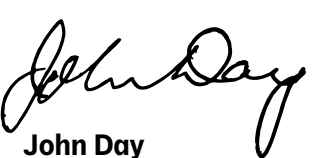
Certification of Financial Statements

The accompanying financial statements of The Library Board of Western Australia have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position as at 30 June 2026.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included within the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Pangi Machukera
Chief Finance Officer
3 September 2026



John Day
Chairman
Library Board of Western Australia
3 September 2026



Constance Wiebrands
Vice Chairman
Library Board of Western Australia
3 September 2026

Independent Auditor’s report

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Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
2026
The Library Board of Western Australia

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of The Library Board of Western Australia (Board) which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- notes comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements are:

- based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Board for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position as at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Restatement of Comparative balances

I draw attention to Note 8.2 of the financial statements which states that the amounts reported in the previously issued 30 June 2025 financial statements have been restated and disclosed as comparatives in these financial statements. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Board for the financial statements

The Board is responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions

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- such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for:

- assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Board.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf.

Report on the audit of controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Board. The controls exercised by the Board are those policies and procedures established to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives).

In my opinion, in all material respects, the controls exercised by the Board are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the controls within the system were suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives identified as at 30 June 2026, and the controls were implemented as designed as at 30 June 2026.

The Board's responsibilities

The Board is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

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Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the controls design to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including an assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Board for the year ended 30 June 2026 reported in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions (legislative requirements). The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators report of the Board for the year ended 30 June 2026 is in accordance with the legislative requirements, and the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Board's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2026.

The Board's responsibilities for the key performance indicators

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such internal controls as the Board determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the key performance indicators, the Board is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 3 Financial Sustainability – Requirement 5 Key Performance Indicators.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Board's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 3 - Requirement 5 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments, I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My independence and quality management relating to the report on financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other information

The Board is responsible for the other information. The other information is the information in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor's report.

My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators do not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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Independent Auditor’s report

OFFICIAL

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and key performance indicators or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor’s report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor’s report and re-issue an amended report.

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

This auditor’s report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Board for the year ended 30 June 2026 included in the annual report on the Board’s website. The Board’s management is responsible for the integrity of the Board’s website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Board’s website. The auditor’s report refers only to the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the Board to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Carly Meagher
Senior Director Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
4 September 2026

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THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	Restated* 2025 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	2.1(a)	15,865	14,736
Supplies and services	2.3	6,289	5,374
Depreciation and amortisation expense	4.1, 4.2	953	1,158
Impairment losses	4.1.1	-	517
Accommodation expenses	2.3	2,801	2,653
Grants and subsidies	2.2	9,003	8,914
Other expenses	2.3	341	73
Total cost of services		35,252	33,425
Income			
User charges and fees	3.2	325	321
Commonwealth grants	3.3	204	216
Interest revenue	3.4	74	75
Bequest contributions	3.5	19	23
Other revenue	3.6	763	646
Total income		1,385	1,281
Total income other than income from State Government		1,385	1,281
NET COST OF SERVICES		33,867	32,144
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	3.1	30,636	29,956
Resources received		1,004	934
Royalties for Regions Fund		250	237
Total income from State Government		31,890	31,127
DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD		(1,977)	(1,017)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(6,765)	1,152
Total other comprehensive income		(6,765)	1,152
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/LOSS FOR THE PERIOD		(8,742)	135

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

* The 2025 reported figures have been restated as a result of prior period error corrections. Refer to Note 8.2 for further details.

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	Restated* 2025 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.2	2,023	1,886
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.2	699	624
Receivables	5.1	514	454
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	1,225	1,225
Other current assets	5.3	335	920
Total Current Assets		4,796	5,109
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.2	1,458	1,458
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	33,008	32,905
Receivables	5.1	536	458
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	688	805
Right-of-use assets	4.2	35,980	36,571
Intangibles	4.3	256	147
Library collections	4.1	81,092	87,310
Total Non-Current Assets		153,018	159,654
TOTAL ASSETS		157,814	164,763
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5.4	1,301	756
Lease liabilities	6.1	7	7
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	2,533	2,400
Other current liabilities	5.5	5	5
Total Current Liabilities		3,846	3,168
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	385	393
Lease liabilities	6.1	-	7
Total Non-Current Liabilities		385	400
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,231	3,568
NET ASSETS		153,583	161,195
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		62,466	61,336
Reserves	8.2	48,884	55,649
Accumulated surplus		42,233	44,210
TOTAL EQUITY		153,583	161,195

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

* The 2025 reported figures have been restated as a result of prior period error corrections. Refer to Note 8.2 for further details.

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Notes	Contributed equity \$'000	Restated*	Accumulated surplus \$'000	Total equity \$'000
		Reserves \$'000		
Balance at 1 July 2024	58,707	54,497	45,227	158,431
Deficit	-	-	(1,017)	(1,017)
Other comprehensive income	-	1,152	-	1,152
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	1,152	(1,017)	135
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:				
Other contribution by owners				
Capital contributions	2,629	-	-	2,629
Total transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	2,629	-	-	2,629
Balance at 30 June 2025	61,336	55,649	44,210	161,195
Balance at 1 July 2025	61,336	55,649	44,210	161,195
Deficit		-	(1,977)	(1,977)
Other comprehensive income	-	(6,765)	-	(6,765)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	(6,765)	(1,977)	(8,742)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:				
Other contribution by owners				
Capital contributions	1,130	-	-	1,130
Total transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	1,130	-	-	1,130
Balance at 30 June 2026	62,466	48,884	42,233	153,583

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

* The 2025 reported figures have been restated as a result of prior period error corrections. Refer to Note 8.2 for further details.

Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Notes	2026 \$'000	Restated* 2025 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT		
Service appropriation	29,308	28,628
Holding account drawdowns	1,225	1,225
Capital appropriation	1,130	2,629
Royalties for Regions Fund	250	237
Net cash provided by the State Government	31,913	32,719
Utilised as follows:		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Employee benefits	(15,802)	(14,888)
Supplies and services	(5,766)	(5,728)
Accommodation	(2,141)	(1,687)
Grants and subsidies	(8,380)	(8,919)
GST payments on purchases	(1,552)	(1,602)
Other payments	(329)	(130)
Receipts		
User charges and fees	320	304
Commonwealth grants and contributions	204	216
Interest received	74	72
Sponsorship revenue	15	15
GST receipts on sales	89	46
GST receipts from taxation authority	1,551	1,406
Other receipts	951	367
Net cash used in operating activities	(30,766)	(30,528)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Purchase of non-current physical assets	(849)	(1,293)
Net cash used in investing activities	(849)	(1,293)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Principal elements of lease payments	(7)	(8)
Payment to accrued salaries account	(79)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(86)	(8)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	3,968	3,078
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	212	890
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	4,180	3,968

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

* The 2025 reported figures have been restated as a result of prior period error corrections. Refer to Note 8.2 for further details.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

1 Basis of preparation

The Library Board of Western Australia (hereinafter referred to as 'the Library Board') is a WA Government entity and is controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent. The Library Board is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities have been included in the 'Overview' which does not form part of these financial statements.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of the Library Board on 03.09.2026.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the Conceptual Framework and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) as modified by Treasurer's instructions. Some of these pronouncements are modified to vary their application and disclosure.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's instructions, which are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements for agencies, take precedence over AASB pronouncements. Where an AASB pronouncement is modified and has had a significant financial effect on the reported results, details of the modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars applying the accrual basis of accounting and using the historical cost convention. Certain balances will apply a different measurement basis (such as the fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical evidence and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements and estimates have been made to meet the requirements of standards AASB 13, AASB 15 and AASB 16.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement:

Key judgements include determining the valuation technique that maximises the use of relevant observable inputs and minimises the use of unobservable inputs when identical asset or liability is not observable.

The valuation of the Library Collection is subject to a high level of estimation uncertainty. This uncertainty arises from the fact that the Library Collection comprises many items and the valuation process therefore depends on sampling which gives rise to the risks inherent in sampling.

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers:

Key judgements include determining the timing of revenue from contracts with customers in terms of timing of satisfaction of performance obligations and determining the transaction price and the amounts allocated to performance obligations.

Estimation uncertainty include determining the transaction prices (estimating variable consideration, adjusting the consideration for the time value of money and measuring non-cash considerations), allocating the transaction price, including estimating stand-alone selling prices and allocating discounts and variable consideration.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

1 Basis of preparation (continued)

AASB 16 Leases:

Key judgements to be made for AASB 16 include identifying leases within contracts, determination of whether there is reasonable certainty around exercising extension and termination options, identifying whether payments are variable or fixed in substance and determining the stand-alone selling prices for lease and non-lease components.

Estimation uncertainty that may arise is the estimation of the lease term, determination of the appropriate discount rate to discount the lease payments and assessing whether the right-of-use asset needs to be impaired.

AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment:

Key judgments to value the Library collection include determining the carrying amounts, the depreciation charges and impairment losses to be recognised. Estimation uncertainty that may arise is the estimation of the Library Collection whole value and total value within each category. This uncertainty arises from the fact that the valuation process depends on sampling due to the number of items.

Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except that the:

- a) amount of GST incurred by the Agency as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of an asset's cost of acquisition or as part of an item of expense; and
- b) receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

Contributed equity

Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, as designated as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior, to transfer) be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 8 – Requirement 8.1(i) and have been credited directly to Contributed equity.

Comparative information

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is presented in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements. AASB 1060 provides relief from presenting comparatives for:

- Property, plant and equipment reconciliations; and
- Right-of-use asset reconciliations.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

2 Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how the Library Board’s funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by the Library Board in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Employee benefits expenses	2.1(a)	15,865	14,736
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	2,918	2,793
Grants and subsidies	2.2	9,003	8,914
Other expenditure	2.3	9,431	8,100

2.1(a) Employee benefits expenses

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Employee benefits	14,168	13,181
Superannuation - defined contributions plans	1,697	1,555
Total employee benefits expenses	15,865	14,736

Employee benefits include wages, salaries and social contributions, accrued and paid leave entitlements and paid sick leave; and non-monetary benefits (such as medical care, housing, cars and free or subsidised goods or services) for employees.

Superannuation is the amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises employer contributions paid to the Gold State Super (GSS) (concurrent contributions), the West State Super (WSS), other GESB schemes, or other superannuation funds.

2.1(b) Employee related provisions

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current		
<i>Employee benefits provisions</i>		
Annual leave	841	821
Long service leave	1,398	1,289
Provision for Purchased Leave	(15)	(4)
	2,224	2,106
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs	309	294
Total current employee related provisions	2,533	2,400
Non-current		
<i>Employee benefits provisions</i>		
Long service leave	345	352
Employment on-costs	40	41
Total non-current employee related provisions	385	393
Total employee related provisions	2,918	2,793

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of annual leave and long service leave for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

2.1(b) Employee related provisions (continued)

Annual leave liabilities are classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

The provision for annual leave is calculated at the present value of expected payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Long service leave liabilities Unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Library Board does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the Library Board has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

The provision for long service leave is calculated at present value as the Library Board does not expect to wholly settle the amounts within 12 months. The present value is measured taking into account the present value of expected future payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date. These payments are estimated using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement and discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Employment on-costs involve the settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities which gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance premium, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses, note 2.3 (apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost))' and are not included as part of the Agency's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Employment on-cost provision		
Carrying amount at start of period	335	431
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	14	(96)
Carrying amount at end of period	349	335

Key sources of estimation uncertainty – long service leave

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Several estimates and assumptions are used in calculating the Library Board's long service leave provision. These include:

- Expected future salary rates;
- Discount rates;
- Employee retention rates; and
- Expected future payments.

Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision. Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of long service leave liabilities is recognised as employee benefits expense.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

2.2 Grants and subsidies

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Recurrent		
Public library materials (Local Governments)	8,522	8,408
Regional subsidies	296	306
VisAbility Inc (formerly the Association for the Blind)	185	185
Other grants and subsidies	-	15
Total grants and subsidies	9,003	8,914

Transactions in which the Library Board provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another party without receiving approximately equal value in return are categorised as 'Grant or subsidy expenses'. These payments or transfers are recognised at fair value at the time of the transaction and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid. They include transactions such as: grants, subsidies, personal benefit payments made in cash to individuals, other transfer payments made to public sector agencies, local government, non-government schools, and community groups.

2.3 Other expenditure

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Supplies and services		
Communications	50	80
Consultants and contractors	84	127
Consumables	859	1,152
Corporate membership fees	246	248
Repairs & maintenance - software	54	98
Travel	69	81
Insurance premiums	94	92
Lease/hire	261	178
Online Information access fees	2,003	1,434
Freight and cartage	96	185
Storage and removal	68	88
Professional services	580	439
Printing	32	34
Licences	755	634
Digitisation services	294	56
Other	744	448
Total supplies and services expenses	6,289	5,374

Accommodation expenses		
Repairs and maintenance - building	987	900
Cleaning	404	373
Security services	737	699
Utilities	638	651
Other	35	30
Total accommodation expenses	2,801	2,653

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

2.3 Other expenditure (continued)

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Other expenses		
Bad and doubtful debts ^(a)	-	4
Workers' compensation insurance	85	(13)
Prizes paid	123	22
Audit fees ^(b)	81	44
Refund of prior receipts	52	-
Other	-	16
Total other expenses	341	73
Total other expenditure	9,431	8,100

a) See also Note 8.9 'Supplementary financial information'.

b) See also Note 8.7 'Remuneration of auditors'.

Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The carrying amounts of any materials held for distribution are expensed when the materials are distributed.

Accommodation expenses are recognised as expenses as incurred.

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Building maintenance and equipment repairs and maintenance costs are recognised as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a component of an asset. In that case, the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

Employee on-cost includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liabilities is included at Note 2.1(b) Employee related provisions. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

3 Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding

This section provides additional information about how the Library Board obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by the Library Board and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Income from State Government	3.1	31,890	31,127
User charges and fees	3.2	325	321
Commonwealth grants and contributions	3.3	204	216
Interest revenue	3.4	74	75
Bequest contributions	3.5	19	23
Other revenue	3.6	763	646

3.1 Income from State Government

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriation	30,636	29,956
Total Service Appropriation	30,636	29,956
Services received free of charge from other Public Sector Entities during the period:		
Services received free of charge	1,004	934
Total resources received	1,004	934
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
Regional Community Services Fund	250	237
Total Royalties for Regions Fund	250	237
Total income from State Government	31,890	31,127

Service appropriations are recognised as income at the fair value of consideration received in the period in which the Library Board gains control of the appropriated funds. The Library Board gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the holding account held at Treasury.

Resources received from other public sector entities is recognised as income equivalent to the fair value of the assets, or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated.

Regional Community Services Account is a sub-fund within the over-arching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas and are recognised as income when the Library Board receives the funds. The Library Board has assessed Royalties for Regions agreements and concludes that they are not within the scope of AASB 15 as they do not meet the 'sufficiently specific' criterion.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 Budget \$'000	2026 Additional Funding* \$'000	Revised Budget \$'000	2026 Actual \$'000	2026 Variance \$'000
Delivery of services					
Item 49 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	30,344		30,344	30,344	-
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	292		292	292	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	30,636	-	30,636	30,636	-
Grand total	30,636	-	30,636	30,636	-

* Additional funding includes supplementary funding and new funding authorised under section 27 of the Act and amendments to standing appropriations.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

3.2 User charges and fees

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
User fees	74	88
Service charges	236	218
Other	15	15
Total user charges and fees	325	321

Revenue is recognised at the transaction price when the Library Board transfers control of the services to customers.

Revenue is recognised at a point-in-time for user fees as these mainly relate to inter-library loans, photocopying fees and sales of photographs. The Library Board typically satisfies its performance obligations for these user fees and charges when services have been provided, and payments are received.

3.3 Commonwealth grants

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Department of Territories - Indian Ocean Territories Grant	204	216
Total Commonwealth grants and contributions	204	216

The Library Board and the Commonwealth Government have a Service Delivery Agreement for the provision of library services to the Indian Ocean Territories (Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands). The Commonwealth Government contributes to the Library Board the costs associated with these services, as detailed below.

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance of funds	11	13
Contributions received	204	216
Cost of providing received	(178)	(218)
Balance on hand	37	11

Grants are recognised as income when the grants are received.

3.4 Interest revenue

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest	74	75
Total interest revenue	74	75

Interest revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

3.5 Bequest contributions

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Other	19	23
Total bequest contributions	19	23

Bequests income is recognised at fair value when the Library Board obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined, and the services would be purchased if not donated. An assessment of the performance obligation is undertaken for funds received and then assessed for recognition over time or at a point in time as or when the Library Board satisfies obligations under the transfer.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

3.6 Other income

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Recoup of prior year expense	13	(44)
Recoup of services provided	411	263
Subsidies	188	289
Recoup of costs	-	39
Other	150	99
Total other income	763	646

Subsidies are recognised as revenue in the reporting period in which they are received. The Library Board receives subsidies from Rio Tinto and Local Governments. Rio Tinto funding is received to support the delivery of online, community and Aboriginal engagement outcomes. Local Government Authorities pay an annual subsidy to supplement the production and delivery costs of Better Beginnings packs.

Other income is recognised in the accounting period in which the relevant performance obligations have been satisfied.

4 Key assets

This section includes information regarding the key assets the Library Board utilises to gain economic benefits or provide service potential. The section sets out both the key accounting policies and financial information about the performance of these assets:

	Notes	2026	2025
		\$'000	\$'000
Property, plant, equipment & library collections	4.1	81,780	88,115
Right-of-use assets	4.2	35,980	36,571
Intangibles	4.3	256	147
Total key assets		118,016	124,833

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

4.1 Property, plant, equipment & library collections

1 July 2025

	Buildings and leasehold improvements at cost \$'000	Furniture & equip, Office equip & Motor vehicles at cost \$'000	State Library collections (non WA) at cost \$'000	WA Heritage collections at fair value \$'000	Works of art at fair value \$'000	Total \$'000
Reported carrying amount	4,315	4,815	25,943	99,331	5,478	139,882
Adjustment of prior period errors (a)				(18,785)		(18,785)
Accumulated depreciation	(4,281)	(4,044)	(24,657)	-	-	(32,982)
Carrying amount at start of period	34	771	1,286	80,546	5,478	88,115
Additions	-	68	173	534	20	795
Cost Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	-	-	(7,222)	453	(6,769)
Depreciation	-	(185)	(176)	-	-	(361)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2026	34	654	1,283	73,858	5,951	81,780
Gross carrying amount	4,315	4,883	26,116	73,858	5,951	115,123
Accumulated depreciation	(4,281)	(4,229)	(24,833)	-	-	(33,343)

(a) The 2025 reported figures have been restated as a result of prior period error corrections. Refer to Note 8.2 for further details.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

4.1 Property, plant, equipment & library collections (continued)

Property, plant and equipment

Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment, costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no cost or significantly less than fair value, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed directly to the statement of comprehensive income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The cost of a leasehold improvement is capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the remaining term of the lease or the estimated useful life of the leasehold improvement.

Three classes of Library Collections held by the Library Board have been identified for financial accounting purposes - State Library Collections, Heritage Collections and Works of Art. All items added to the State Library Collections are capitalised at cost. Heritage Collections include monographs, newspapers, microfilm, cartographic items, pictorial and film collections, printed music, sound recordings and oral history which may be acquired by purchase or donation. Private archives, ephemera and serials collections are not recognised as assets of the Library Board unless their values can be reliably estimated.

Subsequent measurement

All items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Library Collections

Revaluation of Library Collections

In accordance with AASB 116 (Para 34), the frequency of revaluation depends upon the changes in fair values of the Items of property, plant and equipment being revalued. Library Collections items do not experience significant and volatile changes in fair value; hence it may be necessary to revalue the collections only every three to five years. Items of the Library Collections worth less than State Library's approved high value which is \$5,000 will be revalued at the end of five years using sampling techniques as per the Library's approved Valuations of Collections Guidelines.

Valuation is based on a five-year cycle, a full valuation is conducted every five years except for Rare Books (individually valued items - IVI items), Private Archives (IVI items) and Works of Art which are valued annually. In the intervening years the value of the total collections is adjusted for new additions, donations, purchases, any disposals, written off items and/or impairments.

An independent valuation of the Library Board Heritage Collections and Works of Art is performed every 5 years. In 2025-26, the Library Board engaged specialist valuers to complete a full valuation of the collection as part of its five-year valuation cycle.

The net fair value of the Western Australian Heritage Collections and Works of Art decreased by \$6.8 million during 2025-26. The decrease in the WA Heritage Collection primarily reflects changes in market values and refinements to valuation methodologies across a number of collection categories.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

4.1.1 Depreciation and amortisation expense

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Depreciation			
Plant, equipment and vehicles	4.1	185	242
Right-of-use assets	4.2	592	592
Library collections (State Library)	4.1	176	324
Total depreciation for the period		953	1,158
Impairment			
Right-of-use concessionary lease at cost -building ^(a)	4.2	-	517
Total impairment losses for the period		-	517

- a) The building asset is classified as a right-of-use concessionary lease (building) asset at cost. Subsequent measurement of the right-of-use asset under AASB 16.33 requires right-of-use assets to be assessed for impairment and to account for any impairment loss identified.

Useful lives

All property, plant and equipment having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life:
Leasehold Improvements	10 years
Furniture and fittings	3 to 10 years
Office equipment	3 to 15 years
Motor vehicles	3 to 10 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments should be made where appropriate.

Heritage Collections and Works of Art controlled by the Library Board are anticipated to have very long and indeterminate useful lives. Their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period. As such, no amount for depreciation has been recognised in respect of these assets.

The State Library Collections are depreciated by expensing the value of the tenth oldest year's acquisitions.

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised.

Where an asset measured at cost is written down to its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised through profit or loss.

Where a previously revalued asset is written down to its recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement through other comprehensive income to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset.

As the Library Board is a not-for-profit agency, the recoverable amount of regularly revalued specialised assets is anticipated to be materially the same as fair value.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. However, this reversal should not increase the asset's carrying amount above what would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

4.2 Right-of-use assets

	Buildings \$'000	Vehicles \$'000	Total \$'000
Carry amount at beginning of period	36,558	13	36,571
Depreciation	(585)	(6)	(591)
Net carrying amount as at end of period	35,973	7	35,980

There were no additions to right-of-use assets during the 2026 financial year (2025: \$Nil).

Initial recognition

At the commencement date of the lease, the Library Board recognises right-of-use assets and a corresponding lease liability for most leases. The right-of-use assets are measured at cost including the following:

- the amount of the initial measurement of lease liability;
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received;
- any initial direct costs; and
- restoration costs, including dismantling and removing the underlying asset.

The Library Board has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases (with a lease term of 12 months or less) and low value leases (with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less). Lease payments associated with these leases are expensed over a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Subsequent measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability.

Depreciation and impairment of right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Library Board at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

Right-of-use assets are tested for impairment when an indication of impairment is identified. The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in note 4.1.

The following amounts relating to leases have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Depreciation expenses of right-of-use assets:		
Concessionary leases - buildings	585	585
Motor vehicles	6	7
Total right-of-use asset depreciation	591	592
Lease interest expense	1	1

The total cash outflow for leases in 2026 was \$7,179 (2025: \$7,778).

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

4.2 Right-of-use assets (continued)

The Library Board's leasing activities and how these are accounted for:

The Library Board has a lease for a single motor vehicle which is used by the State Library of Western Australia as a pool vehicle.

The Library Board also has a lease for the Alexander Library Building (ALB). The building lease is classified as a concessionary lease (peppercorn) as the arrangement contains significantly below market terms and conditions principally to enable the Library Board to further its objectives (yearly rental of one peppercorn is payable if and when demanded). The lease is for an initial 50 year period with an extension option for a further 50 years. The ALB is a specific purpose building. Government has not indicated any appetite or intention to relocate state library services to a new or alternate specific purpose location. Therefore, at present, there is no reason why the Library Board would not exercise the extension option. Accordingly, the remaining lease term as at 1 July 2025 is 62.5 years.

The corresponding lease liability in relation to the motor vehicle right-of-use asset has been disclosed in note 6.1. There is no corresponding lease liability for the Alexander Library Building as the value of the peppercorn payment is not defined and therefore a liability cannot be reliably measured.

4.3 Intangibles

	Computer software \$'000	Works in progress \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2026			
At 1 July 2025			
Gross carrying amount	422	147	569
Accumulated amortisation	(422)	-	(422)
Carrying amount at start of year	-	147	147
Additions		109	109
Disposals	-	-	-
Impairment losses	-	-	-
Impairment losses reversed	-	-	-
Amortisation expense	-	-	-
Carrying amount at 30 June 2026	-	256	256
Gross carrying amount	422	256	678
Accumulated amortisation	(422)	-	(422)

Initial recognition and measurement

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost in accordance with AASB 138 Intangible Assets and Treasurer's Instruction TI 9(4.6) Asset Capitalisation. Expenditure on intangible assets is capitalised only when it meets the recognition criteria and exceeds the capitalisation threshold of \$5,000. Costs below this threshold are expensed directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

The amount of \$256,000 recognised in the Work in Progress category relates to a software development project that is currently ongoing. As the project is not yet complete and available for use, it has not been transferred to "Computer Software" and therefore is not subject to amortisation.

Once development is complete and the asset is ready for use, it will be reclassified to "Computer Software" and amortised over its estimated useful life in accordance with applicable accounting standards and Treasurer's Instructions.

No impairment losses or reversals were recognised during the financial year.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

5 Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Library Board's controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Receivables	5.1	1,050	912
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	34,233	34,130
Other current assets	5.3	335	920
Payables	5.4	1,301	756
Other liabilities	5.5	5	5

5.1 Receivables

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current		
Trade receivables	366	225
Allowance for impairment of trade receivables	(19)	(19)
Interest receivable	19	19
GST receivable	148	229
Total current receivables	514	454
Non-current		
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(a)	536	458
Total non-current receivables	536	458
Total receivables at end of period	1,050	912

- a) Funds transferred to the Department of Treasury and Finance for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that generally occurs every 11 years. This account is classified as noncurrent except for the year before the 27th pay year.

Trade receivables are initially recognised at their transaction price less any allowances for expected credit losses (i.e., impairment). The carrying amount of net trade receivables is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days.

Accrued salaries suspense account consists of amounts paid annually, from Library Board appropriations for salaries expense, into a Treasury suspense account to meet the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay days instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

The account has been reclassified from 'Cash and cash equivalents' to 'Receivables' as it is considered that funds in the account are not cash but a right to receive the cash in future. Comparative amounts have also been reclassified.

5.2 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current	1,225	1,225
Non-current	33,008	32,905
Balance at end of period	34,233	34,130

Amounts receivable for services represent the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

Amounts receivable for services are financial assets at amortised cost, and are not considered impaired (i.e., there is no expected credit loss of the Holding Account).

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

5.3 Other current assets

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current		
Prepayments	335	920
Balance at end of period	335	920

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

5.4 Payables

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current		
Trade payables	70	-
Other payables	476	185
Accrued expenses	320	195
Accrued salaries	435	376
Total payables at end of period	1,301	756

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Library Board becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as settlement is generally within 20 days.

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight after the reporting period. The Library Board considers the carrying number of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

5.5 Other current liabilities

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current		
Unclaimed monies	5	5
Total other current Liabilities	5	5

Other financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

6 Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cashflows of the Library Board.

	Notes
Lease liabilities	6.1
Cash and cash equivalents	6.2

6.1 Lease liabilities

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Not later than one year	7	7
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	7
	7	14
Lease liabilities		
Current	7	7
Non-current	-	7
Total lease liabilities	7	14

There is no lease liability for the right-of-use concessionary lease – building (note 4.2). The lease terms state that yearly rental of one peppercorn is payable if and when demanded. As the lease agreement does not assign a value to the peppercorn, a lease liability cannot be reliably measured.

At the commencement date of the lease, the Library Board recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of the lease payments to be paid over the lease term. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Library Board uses the incremental borrowing rate provided by Western Australian Treasury Corporation.

Lease payments included by the Library Board as part of the present value calculation of lease liability include:

- Fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- The exercise price of purchase options (where these are reasonably certain to be exercised);
- Payments for penalties for terminating a lease, where the lease term reflects the Library Board exercising an option to terminate the lease, and
- Periods covered by extension or termination options are only included in the lease term by the Library Board if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

The interest on the lease liability is recognised in profit or loss over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Lease liabilities do not include any future changes in variable lease payments (that depend on an index or rate) until they take effect, in which case the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Variable lease payments, not included in the measurement of lease liability, that are dependent on sales, an index or a rate are recognised by the Library Board in profit or loss in the period in which the condition that triggers those payments occurs.

This section should be read in conjunction with note 4.2.

Subsequent measurement

Lease liabilities are measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liabilities; reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made; and remeasuring the carrying amount at amortised cost, subject to adjustments to reflect any reassessment or lease modifications.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

6.2 Cash and cash equivalents

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	2,023	1,886
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,157	2,082
Balance at end of period	4,180	3,968

Restricted cash and cash equivalents

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current	699	624
Non-current	1,458	1,458
Balance at end of period	2,157	2,082

For the purpose of the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

7 Financial instruments and contingencies

This note sets out the key risk management policies and measurement techniques of the Library Board.

	Notes
Financial instruments	7.1
Contingent assets & liabilities	7.2
Contingent assets	7.2.1
Contingent liabilities	7.2.2

7.1 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,023	1,886
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,157	2,082
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	34,893	34,813
Total financial assets	39,073	38,781

Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	1,306	761
Total financial liabilities	1,306	761

- a) The amount of financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

7.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at best estimate.

Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

7.2.1 Contingent assets

The Library Board is not aware of any contingent assets existing as at 30 June 2026 or 30 June 2025.

7.2.2 Contingent liabilities

The Library Board is not aware of any contingent liabilities existing as at 30 June 2026 or 30 June 2025.

Contaminated sites

Under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003, the Library Board is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). In accordance with the Act, DWER classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as contaminated – remediation required or possibly contaminated – investigation required, the Library Board may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

The Library Board did not report any contaminated sites to DWER during the reporting period.

8 Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Events occurring after the end of the reporting period	8.1
Correction of prior period errors	8.2
Key management personnel	8.3
Related party transactions	8.4
Related bodies	8.5
Affiliated bodies	8.6
Remuneration of auditors	8.7
Services provided free of charge	8.8
Supplementary financial information	8.9

8.1 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

There were no events occurring after the end of the reporting period that warrant disclosure.

8.2 Correction of prior period errors

During the current year, the Office of the Auditor General identified that certain collection assets previously included within the revalued Heritage Collection meet the definition of intangible assets under AASB 138 Intangible Assets. The affected assets include digitised surrogates, born-digital collection material and certain film and audio collection items where the information or content is considered more significant than the physical carrier.

As no active market exists for these assets, the revaluation model under AASB 138 was not available. The assets should instead have been accounted for using the cost model. However, reliable historical cost or acquisition-date valuation information is not available because many of the items were purchased or created a considerable time ago, donated to the Library Board, or received without separately recorded costs. Accordingly, a reliable carrying amount under the cost model could not be established.

The previous inclusion of these assets within the revalued Heritage Collection was therefore determined to be inconsistent with AASB 138 and has been corrected as a prior-period error in accordance with AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors. The comparative amounts have been retrospectively restated to remove the carrying value previously attributed to these assets, as follows:

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Year ended 30 June 2025

Statement of financial position (extract)	Reported 30 June 2025 \$'000	Correction of prior period error \$'000	Restated 30 June 2025 \$'000
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	106,900	(18,785)	88,115
Equity			
Reserves	74,434	(18,785)	55,649
Statement of comprehensive income (extract)			
Other comprehensive income			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	1,395	(243)	1,152
Total comprehensive income for the period	378		135

The restatement does not mean that the affected collection material has ceased to exist or no longer has cultural significance or service potential. The assets continue to be held, preserved and made accessible as part of the State Library Heritage Collection. The adjustment reflects the absence of a reliable measurement basis under the AASB 138 revaluation model.

8.3 Key management personnel

The Library Board has determined key management personnel to include cabinet ministers, board members and senior officers. The Library Board does not incur expenditures to compensate Ministers and those disclosures may be found in the *Annual Report on State Finances*.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for members of the accountable authority of the Library Board for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band of members of the accountable authority

	2026	2025
Compensation band (\$)		
40,001 - 50,000	1	0
30,001 - 40,000	-	1
0 - 10,000	14	12
	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Total compensation of members of the accountable authority	68	56

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for senior officers of the Library Board for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band of senior officers

	2026	2025
Compensation band (\$)		
350,001 – 400,000	1	-
300,001 – 350,000	-	1
201,001 – 250,000	2	-
150,001 – 200,000	-	3
100,001 – 150,000	1	-
	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Total compensation of senior officers	936	952

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

8.4 Related party disclosures

The Library Board is a wholly owned and controlled public sector entity of the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of the Library Board include:

- all cabinet ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other agencies and statutory authorities, including related bodies, that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e., wholly owned public sector entities);
- associates and joint ventures, of a wholly owned public sector entity; and
- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis. The Library does not have any Key Management Personnel who are member of the Pension Scheme.

Related party transactions

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Agency, there were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

8.5 Related bodies

The Library Board does not have any related bodies.

8.6 Affiliated bodies

The Library Board does not have any affiliated bodies.

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Auditing the accounts, controls, financial statements and key performance indicators	45	44
	45	44
8.8 Services provided free of charge		
<u>State Records Office</u>		
Employee costs	90	89
Accommodation costs	144	143
Supplies & services	12	12
	246	244
<u>Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries</u> ^(a)		
Accommodation costs	32	31
Supplies & services	3	2
	35	33

- a) The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries occupied 172 m² of space within the Alexander Library Building from 28 August 2017 and an additional 215 m² of space from 12 April 2018.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

8.9 Supplementary financial information

a) Write-offs

During the financial year, nil (2025: \$Nil) was written off the Library Board's receivables ledger under the authority of:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
The accountable authority	-	-
	-	-

b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

There were no losses of public moneys through theft, default or other causes during the financial year.

c) Gifts of public property

There were no gifts of public property during the financial year.

9 Explanatory statement

This section explains variations in the financial performance of the Library Board.

Explanatory statement for controlled operations	Notes 9.1
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9.1 Explanatory statement for controlled operations

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the Library Board undertaking transactions under its own control, as represented by the primary financial statements.

All variances between annual estimates (original budget) and actual result for 2026, and between the actual results for 2026 and 2025 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances, which vary more than 10% from their comparative and that the variance is more than 1% of the:

- Estimate and actual results for the current year
 - Total Cost of Services of the estimate for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$34.796 Million), and
 - Total Assets of the estimate for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$182.850 Million).
- Actual results for the current year and the prior year actual:
 - Total Cost of Services for the previous year for the Statements of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$33.425 Million); and
 - Total Assets for the previous year for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$164.763 Million).

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

9.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2026 \$'000	Actual 2026 \$'000	Actual 2025 \$'000	Variance between actual and estimate \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 \$'000
Statement of Comprehensive Income (Controlled Operations)						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense		15,333	15,865	14,736	532	1,129
Supplies and services	1	6,532	6,289	5,374	(243)	915
Depreciation and amortisation expense	A	1,328	953	1,158	(375)	(205)
Impairment losses		-	-	517	-	(517)
Accommodation expenses		2,470	2,801	2,653	331	148
Grants and subsidies		8,897	9,003	8,914	106	89
Other expenses		236	341	73	105	268
Total cost of services		34,796	35,252	33,425	456	1,827
Income						
User charges and fees		245	325	321	80	4
Commonwealth grants and contributions		224	204	216	(20)	(12)
Interest revenue		32	74	75	42	(1)
Bequest contributions		-	19	23	19	(4)
Other revenue		454	763	646	309	117
Total income		955	1,385	1,281	430	104
Total income other than income from State Government		955	1,385	1,281	430	104
NET COST OF SERVICES		33,841	33,867	32,144	26	1,723
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation		30,621	30,636	29,956	15	680
Services received free of charge		830	1,004	934	174	70
Royalties for Regions Fund		250	250	237	-	13
Total income from State Government		31,701	31,890	31,127	189	763
DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD		(2,140)	(1,977)	(1,017)	163	(960)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation reserve			(6,765)	1,152	(6,765)	(7,917)
Total other comprehensive income		-	(6,765)	1,152	(6,765)	(7,917)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(2,140)	(8,742)	135	(6,602)	(8,877)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

9.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances (continued)

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives

- A. The \$375,000 (29%) decrease was primarily due to an overestimation of capital asset additions in the budget. As depreciation expense was calculated based on these higher projected asset additions, the budgeted depreciation exceeded the actual depreciation recognised during the year.

Major actual (2026) and comparative (2025) variance narratives

1. Supplies and Services increased by \$915,000 (17%) in 2025-26, mainly due to changes in the Better Beginnings program delivery model, higher software licensing costs, greater use of online library resources, and one-off costs relating to the five-year collection valuation, labour hire and consultancy services.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

9.1.2 Statement of financial position variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2026 \$'000	Actual 2026 \$'000	Actual 2025 \$'000	Variance between actual and estimate \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 \$'000
Statement of Financial Position (Controlled Operations)						
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		1,396	2,023	1,886	627	137
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		368	699	624	331	75
Receivables		230	514	454	284	60
Amounts receivable for services		1,225	1,225	1,225	-	-
Other current assets		1,038	335	920	(703)	(585)
Total Current Assets		4,257	4,796	5,109	539	(313)
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		1,838	1,458	1,458	(380)	-
Amounts receivable for services		33,156	33,008	32,905	(148)	103
Receivables		-	536	458	536	78
Property, plant and equipment	B	20,827	688	805	(20,139)	(117)
Right-of-use assets		37,679	35,980	36,571	(1,699)	(591)
Library collections		85,093	81,092	87,310	(4,001)	(6,218)
Intangible assets			256	147	256	109
Total Non-Current Assets		178,593	153,018	159,654	(25,575)	(6,636)
TOTAL ASSETS		182,850	157,814	164,763	(25,036)	(6,949)
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables		863	1,301	756	438	545
Lease liabilities		20	7	7	(13)	-
Employee related provisions		2,718	2,533	2,400	(185)	133
Other current liabilities		422	5	5	(417)	-
Total Current Liabilities		4,023	3,846	3,168	(177)	678
Non-Current Liabilities						
Employee related provisions		305	385	393	80	(8)
Lease liabilities		-	-	7	-	(7)
Total Non-Current Liabilities		305	385	400	80	(15)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,328	4,231	3,568	(97)	663
NET ASSETS		178,522	153,583	161,195	(24,939)	(7,612)
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		62,665	62,466	61,336	(199)	1,130
Reserves		73,039	48,884	55,649	(24,155)	(6,765)
Accumulated surplus		42,818	42,233	44,210	(585)	(1,977)
TOTAL EQUITY		178,522	153,583	161,195	(24,939)	(7,612)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

9.1.2 Statement of financial position variances (continued)

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives

- B. The decrease in property, plant and equipment of \$20 million (97%) reflects an overestimation of projected capital additions for the year, resulting in lower actual expenditure than budgeted.

Major actual (2026) and comparative (2025) variance narratives

Nil

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

9.1.3 Statement of cash flows variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2026 \$'000	Actual 2026 \$'000	Actual 2025 \$'000	Variance between actual and estimate \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 \$'000
Statement of Cash Flows (Controlled Operations)						
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation		29,293	29,308	28,628	15	680
Holding account drawdowns		1,225	1,225	1,225	-	-
Capital appropriation / Contributed equity	2	1,354	1,130	2,629	(224)	(1,499)
Royalties for Regions Fund		250	250	237	-	13
Net cash provided by State Government		32,122	31,913	32,719	(209)	(806)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits		(15,333)	(15,802)	(14,888)	(469)	(914)
Supplies and services	C	(6,785)	(5,766)	(5,728)	1,019	(38)
Accommodation	D,3	(1,730)	(2,141)	(1,687)	(411)	(454)
Grants and subsidies		(8,897)	(8,380)	(8,919)	517	539
GST payments on purchases		(1,704)	(1,552)	(1,602)	152	50
Other payments		(108)	(329)	(130)	(221)	(199)
Receipts						
User charges and fees		245	320	304	75	16
Commonwealth grants and contributions		224	204	216	(20)	(12)
Interest received		32	74	72	42	2
Sponsorship revenue		-	15	15	15	-
GST receipts on sales		96	89	46	(7)	43
GST receipts from taxation authority		1,550	1,551	1,406	1	145
Other receipts	E, 4	454	951	367	497	584
Net cash used in operating activities		(31,956)	(30,766)	(30,528)		(238)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	F, 5	(1,225)	(849)	(1,293)	376	444
Net cash (used in) investing activities			(849)	(1,293)	376	444
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
Principal elements of lease payments		-	(7)	(8)	(7)	1
Payment to accrued salaries account			(79)	-	(79)	(79)
Net cash used in financing activities			(86)	(8)	(86)	(78)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(1,059)	212	890	1,271	(678)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		4,661	3,968	3,078	(693)	890
Adjustment for the reclassification of accrued salaries account			-	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		3,602	4,180	3,968	578	212

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

9.1.3 Statement of cash flows variances (continued)

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives

- C. The \$1 million (15%) decrease in supplies and services expenditure was primarily due to lower than expected spending on the At-Risk Audio-Visual Digitisation Collections Project. The related work has been deferred and will be carried forward to the next financial year.
- D. The increase in accommodation payments of \$411,000 (24%) was primarily driven by higher electricity consumption and increased cloud storage costs associated with the At-Risk Audio-Visual Digitisation Collections Project.
- E. The increase in other receipts of \$497,000 (109%) was primarily driven by higher funding received from Rio Tinto for the Better Beginnings program in 2025-26, together with increased salary recoupments from the Department of Creative Industries.
- F. The decrease in purchases of non-current physical assets of \$376,000 (31%) was primarily due to timing differences, as all capital funding for 2025-26 has been allocated and committed, with some related payments scheduled to be processed in 2026-27.

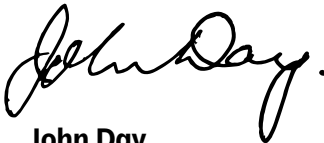
Major actual (2026) and comparative (2025) variance narratives

2. The \$1.5 million (57%) reduction in capital funding in 2025-26 was mainly due to the release of funding for the Digitisation of At-Risk Audio-Visual Collections project in 2024-25, which included funding carried forward from previous financial years.
3. The increase in accommodation payments of \$454,000 (27%) was primarily driven by higher electricity consumption and increased cloud storage costs associated with the At-Risk Audio-Visual Digitisation Collections Project.
4. The increase in other receipts of \$584,000 (159%) was primarily driven by higher funding received from Rio Tinto for the Better Beginnings program in 2025-26, together with increased salary recoupments from the Department of Creative Industries.
5. The decrease in purchases of non-current physical assets of \$444,000 (34%) was primarily due to timing differences, as all capital funding for 2025-26 has been allocated and committed, with some related payments scheduled to be processed in 2026-27.

Key performance indicators

Certification of Key Performance Indicators

We hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Library Board of Western Australia’s performance and fairly represent the performance of the Library Board of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.



John Day
Chairman
Library Board of Western Australia
3 September 2026



Constance Wiebrands
Vice Chairman
Library Board of Western Australia
3 September 2026

Government Goal: *Better Places: A quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and vibrant regions*

Outcome 1: The Western Australian community has access to the State Library’s collections, services and programs.

Key Effectiveness Indicator: Number of State Library accesses.

Description: The State Library provides a wide range of information and services to the community directly from the State Library building and online through its website and with community partners through various programs. This indicator measures the extent to which the community utilises the State Library’s collections, services and programs in person and online.

2024-25 actual	2025-26 target	2025-26 actual	Actual against target
5,490,058	5,269,410	5,617,451	7%

Commentary:

The number of accesses to collections, services and programs is 7% above the target. The State Library continues to attract people to its facilities, collections, programs and events.

Highlights included:

- In person visits to the State Library building were 4% above target (569,492).
- Online visits to State Library websites were 6% above target (852,824).
- Number of people attending programs and events was 56% above target (36,288).
- Social media engagements were 7% above target (1,675,895).
- Downloads of online resources, including the popular family history resource, Ancestry Library Edition were 13% above target (578,177).



Key Effectiveness Indicator: Percentage of visitors who are satisfied with State Library services.

Description: This measures the extent to which the State Library’s collections, services and programs meet the needs of the community.

2024-25 actual	2025-26 target	2025-26 actual	Actual against target
93%	95%	91%	-4%

Commentary:

Client Surveys were conducted in October 2025 and April 2026. Almost 900 in person visitors provided a response on how satisfied they were with collections, services and facilities provided by the State Library. The level of satisfaction is below the target and below last year’s result. Where dissatisfaction was recorded, this was largely attributed to State Library facilities not meeting expectations of a contemporary library.

Key Efficiency Measure Average: Cost per State Library access.

Description: Net cost of services attributed to State Library Services divided by the number of accesses.

2024-25 actual	2025-26 target	2025-26 actual	Actual against target
\$2.87	\$3.08	\$2.91	-6%

Commentary:

The average cost per access is 6% below the target. This variance can be attributed to an increase in the number of accesses to State Library’s collections, services and catalogue (7%). The net cost of services attributed to State Library services was on target.

Outcome 2: The Western Australian community engages with public library collections, services and programs.

Key Effectiveness Indicator: Percentage of Western Australians that are a member of a public library.

Description: The State Library works in partnership with local governments to support community engagement with public library collections, services and programs. This measures the extent to which the community engages with the Western Australian public library network.

2024-25 actual	2025-26 target	2025-26 actual	Actual against target
22%	22%	23%	6%

Commentary:

Public library memberships increased by 6% from 684,858 in 2023-24 to 729,185 in 2024-25 superseding population growth in Western Australia (3%) from 2,965,200 at 30 June 2024 to 3,043,700 at 30 June 2025.

This is a lagging measure as full year actual results for public library members are unavailable before the 90-day deadline for agency annual reports to be tabled in Parliament. Therefore, this indicator is calculated from averaging the previous two years’ active library members as reported by Western Australia’s 233 public libraries.



Key Efficiency Measure: Average cost of State Government support for public library services per public library member.

Description: Net cost of services attributed to Public Library Services divided by the number of library members. This cost does not include local government costs for providing public library services to their communities.

2024-25 actual	2025-26 target	2025-26 actual	Actual against target
\$25.46	\$26.44	\$24.73	-6%

Commentary:

The indicator is below the target meaning the per capita expenditure on public library support is less than expected (-6%). The net cost of services attributed to public library support was on target. The variance for this indicator can be attributed to the higher-than-expected increase in the number of public library memberships.

This is a lagging measure as full year actual results for public library members are unavailable before the 90-day deadline for agency annual reports to be tabled in Parliament. Therefore, this indicator is calculated from averaging the previous two years’ active library members as reported by Western Australia’s 233 public libraries.

Appendices

Giving Circles

Curators Circle \$50,000+

Margaret Medcalf OAM
{with thanks and gratitude to the Friends of Battye Library Inc}

Scholars Circle \$5,000+

John Day
Susan North
Public Libraries Western Australia

Researchers Circle \$2,500+

Anonymous

Writers Circle \$1,000+

Fay Castling
Dr Margaret Nowak AM
Tracey Sturges
Dr Peter Williams
Anonymous (4)

Readers Circle \$500+

Book Club Babes
Diane Brennan OAM
R and R Cant
Chao Loong Chin
Douglas Corker
Peter and Cathy Day
Dr Kieran Dolin
Nick Drew and Pamela Statham Drew
Mark Duffy
Beth Frayne
David Gulland and Catherine Clark
Steph Jackson
Gillian Lilleyman
Glenda Martinick
Julie Pynt
Angela Regan
Julian and Lesley Russell
Lyn, Astrid, Claudia and Rosy Serventy
Bernadette Strahan
Ray Tauss
Sarah and Julian Tompkin
Jessica Vercoe
Anonymous (5)

Supporters

Gratitude goes to the many State Library supporters (under \$500), whose gifts collectively make a substantial difference to how the organisation operates.

Estates

The State Library of Western Australia gratefully honours and acknowledges the support received through bequests and legacy gifts, strengthening our operations for generations to come.

Leah Jane Cohen Bequest

Maude Sholl Bequest {administered by the Friends of Battye Library Inc}

Exhibitions and events

Exhibitions

A Recipe for Life: The Food That Shapes Us

Book an Adventure: 80 Years of Australian Stories

Celebrating 60 Years of the Botanic Garden at Kings Park

Hello, this is Sam Lovell

Ilford Orloff Awards Exhibition

Gestalt Comics: The First Twenty Years

Kinjarling Djinnang Ngalak: Country Sees Us

Monkey Business – It’s a Barrel of Fun!

The Legend of Moondyne Joe

WA Women’s Hall of Fame – Roll of Honour

X-Press Magazine: 41 Years on the Street

Events

WA Premier’s Book Awards Ceremony

40 Years of the Alexander Library Building: Space and Openness (Panel and Open House)

A Recipe for Life exhibition launch

Aboriginal Family History Sessions

AI is Here (panel discussion)

Author events with Arts Margaret River – Kathy Lette (Feb), Bob Brown (May), Antionette Lattouf (May), Mark Herron (May)

AWESOME International Arts Festival

Book Launches (several)

Children’s Book Council of Australia – Make Your Own Story Book Awards

Children’s Book Council of Australia – 80th Birthday Celebration

Children’s University Family Days

Family History Talks and Research Assistance

Genocide in the Wildflower State film screening

Ilford Orloff Awards Presentation Evening

Kinjarling Djinning Ngalak exhibition launch

Let’s Chat! English Conversation Group Sessions

Library Board Awards

Melting Pot: Food, Memory and Belonging

NAIDOC Week Film Screening: The Coolbaroo Club

Online Author events for Regional schools: Ash Harrier (Term 3, 2025), Andy Griffiths (Term 3, 2025), Kelly Canby (Term 4, 2025), Aska (Term 1, 2026) and Mark Greenwood (Term 2, 2026)

PEN Perth: Day of the Imprisoned Writer lecture with Peter Greste

Perth Comic Arts Festival (PCAF)

Pocket photography workshop and talk

Records of Resistance: Truth, Archives and Exposing Aboriginal Histories

Seeds of a Story: A Writing and Research Workshop

Stella Day Out Perth

Histories (Research Fellowship presentations)

Remarkable Manuscripts (lecture)

Scones, Stories and Secret Recipes: The CWA Cookbook and Country Cooking

Stories from the West

Tales of the Unexpected from the State Library and State Archives

The Art Behind the Story (online tour)

Tim Ross: The Australian Dream?

WA Reflections – film screenings

X-Press Magazine: 41 Years on the Street launch and panel event

Young Reader’s Day Out

Partnerships

Aboriginal Arts Centre Hub WA – Revealed

ABC Perth

Arts and Culture Trust (Perth Cultural Centre)

Arts Margaret River

Association of Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS)

Australian Emulation-as-a-Service Infrastructure (AusEaaS)

Australian Government (Indian Ocean Territories)

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition

Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)

Australian Web Archive

Barking Gecko Arts (previously AWESOME Arts)

Bringing Them Home WA

Community Arts Network WA

Country Women’s Association

Children’s Book Council WA

Children’s University

Curtin University HIVE

Department of Communities

Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport including Aboriginal History WA, Office of Multicultural Interests and State Records Office

Department of Education – North Metro AEIO Network

Department of Education – KindyLink and Child and Parent Centres

Department of Health – Child and Adolescent Health and WA Country Health

Department of Justice

Digital Preservation Coalition

Digitisation Centre of Australia (DCWA)

Edith Cowan University

Family History WA

Friends of Battye Inc.

Fremantle Press

History Teachers Association WA

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

John Curtin Gallery

Kerry Stokes Collection

Local government and public libraries (233 libraries)

Local Government Professionals WA

Magabala Books

Museum of Perth

National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA)

National edeposit (NED)

Nyamba Buru Yawuru

Perth Comic Arts Festival

Perth Design Week

Perth Institute of Contemporary Art

Perth Festival

PEN Perth

Pro Photography WA

Public Libraries WA Inc.

Rio Tinto

RTRFM Radio

Halls Head College – Deadly Sista Girlz

Screenwest

Seven West Media

Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) WA

Stella Prize

Sydney Writers Festival

National Trust WA

North Metropolitan TAFE

The Literature Centre

Tim Ross (Modernister Books)

National Library of Australia Trove Partners

Murdoch University: Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre

University of Western Australia

VisAbility

Western Australian Museum including WA Museum Boola Bardip and Museum of the Great Southern

Museum of the Great Southern – (specific to Kinjarling work)

Warburton Community Inc.

Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC)

Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)

Western Australian School Libraries Association

Writing WA

YOKAI Healing Our Spirit (The West Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation)



STATE LIBRARY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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