

**Inclusive Activities in
Public Libraries
A good practice guide**



A VIBRANT, PROUD, GROWING AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY OFFERING LIFESTYLE CHOICES

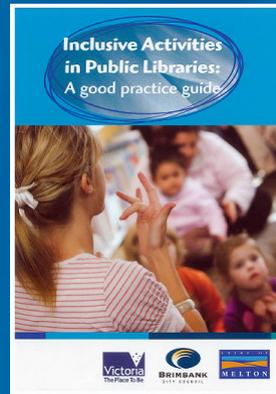
Background

- Department of Human Services (via MetroAccess) funded project - \$8,160
- Partnership between Brimbank City Council, Melton Shire Council and Department of Human Services
- Project delivered by MetroAccess Project Officers and Library staff representing both Councils
- Steering Group established to oversee project



The Project

- Develop 'good practice' publication to guide delivery of library services and programs that will:
 - increase accessibility
 - take positive steps to include all community members
- Deliver two community based inclusive library activities (case studies)
- Purchase new resources i.e. picture books, talking books that promote positive images of disability and inclusion
- Provide a final community based activity to launch the guide



Project Aim

- Increase capacity of Library Services to be inclusive and accessible to all
- Develop a resource which promotes positive disability access and inclusion strategies
- Increase library staff awareness and promote inclusive practices
- Promote positive attitudes towards people with differing abilities in both communities



Role of Partners

MetroAccess Officers

- Project Leaders
- Establish partnerships
- Manage budget and reporting to DHS
- Resource Library Staff
- Member of Steering Group



Library Staff

- Identify and purchase resources
- Plan and deliver storytime sessions and launch activity
- Identify steps taken, learning's, challenges
- Library Managers on Steering Group

Steering Group

- Monitor and evaluate project
- Collate information and produce guide
- Support Library staff



Case Studies

Case Study 1 – Brimbank City Council

Inclusive preschool storytime at Sunshine Library with elements to facilitate participation for the deaf

Case Study 2 – Melton Shire Council

Inclusive preschool storytime with children from local Specialist School and Autism Carers Support Group



Outcomes/Learnings

- Production of Good Practice Guide
- Enhanced library staffs' disability awareness and capacity to provide more inclusive and accessible services
- Increased participation of people with a disability
- Increased community awareness and promotion of inclusive communities
- Established new partnerships with local disability service providers
- Disability service providers have outlet for future programming and potential new opportunities
- Modifications to service delivery achieved at no or minimal cost



Conclusion

- **Positive experience**
- **Provide new opportunities for all partners**
- **Generated increased library usage**
- **Achieved at minimal cost**
- **Personal and professional job satisfaction**
- **Learnings can be incorporated into all aspects of library service delivery**

