

**State Library of Victoria
Report to VICLINK
June 2001**

**Public Library Policy Development
The Initial Consultation Process**

By the beginning of June the initial consultation process had been completed. The consultation was broad ranging and covered an extensive list of individuals and peak body groups. Among these 3 workshops were held at The Strategy Shop in April with stakeholders representing specific constituencies, such as the RVIB and Vision Australia. An MAV sponsored workshop on public library policy review was held on 3 May and facilitated by The Strategy Shop. This meeting was attended by more than 60 councilors, CEOs and senior council staff from across the state. The Strategy Shop also ran a workshop on the issues relating to the profession and to library staff for the ASU attended by 15-20 library delegates.

The Issues Paper

35 responses were received with 10 from Councils; 8 from Libraries/Library Corporations and 12 from other organizations including VICLINK, MAV, Multimedia Victoria, State Library of Victoria, VICNET, LAC, FOL, Australian Centre for Youth Literature, School Libraries Association. The deadline was extended to allow time for further responses from library corporations.

Responses by Way of Themes

Leadership Vision Direction	Access & Equity	Changing Patterns of Use	Financial Sustainability	Re-creating the Profession	Buildings & Facilities Redevelopment	Integrated Library Services	Other
24	19	18	19	14	13	18	6

Issues under "Other"

1. MAV concern over need for greater Local Government 'ownership' of the project.
2. Viability of regional library corporation model questioned. Costs prohibitive in low population areas.
3. The equitable delivery of library services to remote areas questioned strenuously.
4. Collection development issues overlooked by Issues Paper.
5. Literacy as an issue in the social/community role of public libraries.
6. Complaints from some library corps that there was insufficient time for them to respond to Issues Paper because of the scheduling of their meetings.

Policy Reference Group

The Reference Group met for its first meeting on 24 May. Below is a list of Reference Group Members **VICLINK** Barbara Horn, **CPLG** Lynne Makin, **State Library** Michael Bertie for Cathrine Harboe-Ree **DOI** Colin Morrison, **VLNC** Bruce Davidson, standing in for Don Schauder, **MAV** Clare Hargreaves, David Cotsell, **VLGA** Noel Harvey for Clem Gillings; Rob Hamilton. Judy Peppard and Graham Dudley were also in attendance. Michael Henry from the Strategy Shop chaired the meeting and Janet Chimonyo took a record of the discussion.

Timeline

30 June 01	Draft 1 completed and emailed to reference group for correction and omissions	Strategy Shop
16 July	Draft 2 reviewed by Reference Group and modified Draft 2 distributed broadly to reach all government stakeholders and libraries, Local Government and library corporations	Strategy Shop via DOI, Library Network Unit, and MAV

July	public advertisement of the draft policy via major and local newspapers	DOI
14 Sept	Closing date for responses	
15 October	Reference Group meeting – signoff on draft 3	Strategy Shop Reference Group
October	Draft 3 distributed to next level stakeholders: including the Library Board of Victoria, Minister Delahunty and Minister Cameron.	Strategy Shop
December	Project signoff	

Ramsay Reid Scholarships

Applications are invited from Victorian public library staff for the two \$15,000 scholarships. Guidelines for applications are being distributed to libraries this week. Pam Saunders, one of the current scholarship holders, will be the key speaker at a seminar on E-books organised by the Viclink Collection Development Committee and sponsored by the Library Board of Victoria.

Progress Reports on the Statewide Projects 2000/2001

Statewide Marketing Project

Damian Tyquin has replaced Judy Peppard as the Library Network Unit representative on the marketing committee.

Advertising

Community service announcements are about to be placed in metropolitan and regional talking newspapers, (including Dutch and Italian community language papers).

The online survey to gauge awareness of and responses to the librariesvictoria campaign conducted recently by Stanley & Milford for librariesvictoria received 142 hits. Summary data from the survey is currently being collated.

AustraliaSCAN

AustraliaSCAN 2001, (Quantum Market Research's annual cultural monitor) incorporating library-specific questions for the first time is now available on the Infonet. Data from the AustraliaSCAN report will also be used in upcoming articles for "Incite" and "Australasian Public Libraries and Information Services" (APLIS).

Website – librariesvictoria.net

Information sheets for the new website are about to be distributed to all library services: a "Frequently asked questions" summary sheet and a guide to "Using and personalising your librariesvictoria.net website".

The SHOW

Plans for a dynamic new design, including colourful murals in a bigger display space are well underway, promising an exciting presence for public libraries at this year's Royal Melbourne Show. Public library staff will again be invited to help make the Show a success by contributing their time to act as stall attendants.

Heather Phillips, convenor Statewide Marketing Committee
Damian Tyquin, Statewide Projects Officer, Library Network Unit

Writers on the Road

Tours to eighteen library services with children's authors have been scheduled, and a total of 90 individual sessions organised. All requests indicating a first preference for a children's tour have been fulfilled in 2001.

Eleven of the twelve tours with authors for adults have now been scheduled, representing around 60 individual events. In a particularly exciting development, Les Murray has been confirmed to appear at Frankston Library Service in late July. Six library services, selected on the basis of Expression of Interests and geographical priority and will be hosting two tours each during 2001.

Literary tours to four library services took place during May 2001, reaching a total audience of 583 people. Children's author, Krista Bell toured to Melton Library Service and Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation; Barry Dickens & Chris Beck toured to Geelong Regional Library Corporation and Shane Maloney & Sue Turnbull performed talks and workshops at Frankston. Excellent feedback from the authors, librarians and participants has been received on all these tours.

There was a tour to Murrindindi and Upper Murray library services with Robyn Annear and Anna Lanyon in early June and in late June tours will go to Central Highlands and Wimmera with Michael Meehan and Anson Cameron.

A number of local newspaper articles have now appeared, and four sessions about *Writers on the Road* have appeared on 3AK's Sunday Arts program and negotiations are underway with ABC's 774 and regional stations.

In addition to program flyers, two banners have now been produced which will travel with the tour and the *Writers on the Road* website is now live.

Tonya Lewis, Project Officer, Library Network Unit

Statewide LOTE Project

Over 8,000 records have been added this financial year to date under the LOTE cataloguing grant.

Two focus groups were recently facilitated by Rod Blacker and Jane King from Practico (at Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library Corporation and the State Library of Victoria). The sessions were well attended, including staff from public libraries and representatives from various ethnic and multicultural service providers. Contributions will be incorporated into Practico's updated "Guidelines for Multicultural Library Services".

Damian Tyquin, Statewide Projects Officer, Library Network Unit

Statewide Disability Project

Submissions are currently being sought for development and implementation of a strategy for promotion of the Mainstreaming Disability Services project. The strategy will be targeted towards relevant community groups (such as Council on the Aging) and disability sector service providers.

Damian Tyquin, Statewide Projects Officer, Library Network Unit

Statewide Training Project

Courses in 2001

The Statewide Training Project continued to offer quality training based on the training needs identified in late 1999 by AIMA. Demand levels are regularly monitored through formal and informal feedback, requests and waiting lists to ensure that relevant training is offered.

The Statewide Training database, attached to the on-line Calendar; is currently being upgraded by Vicnet. The training programs were delivered as planned. Gulliver training has commenced; training for metropolitan libraries is coordinated through the Statewide Program, with 9 ½ day workshops planned for June, starting on 14 June. Regional libraries will receive in-house training as arranged with the Gale Group trainers.

A very successful two-day workshop on *Children's Programs* was held on 29-30 May. The program was offered in response to demand expressed through the Statewide Children's Project Committee last year. Evaluation was very positive and all 16 participants contributed lots of ideas as to how to make the future course even better. *Children's Programs* will be repeated early next year to accommodate a long waiting list.

Number of programs April-June:	17
Gulliver ½ day workshops (Metro):	8
Marketing Planning In-house workshops:	7
Total courses:	32

Staff visits and exchange pilot program 2000

All libraries are invited to participate in the staff exchange and visit program. This includes group visits. The Project will subsidise travel and/or accommodation costs to libraries.

Staff specialisation and expertise database

A small database has been set up to record specialist skills in Victorian public libraries. A number of staff provided details of their special interest and/or expertise. Information on this database is available from the Statewide Training Project Coordinator.

Peter Carter, Convenor, Statewide Training Committee
Ana Djordjevic, Statewide Training Project Coordinator

VISioN

The service level agreement for 2001/2002 was endorsed at the last Viclink meeting. Vision has completed 705 questions from January – mid June. David Flegg attended the Ref-Co-op meeting in Frankston and participated in presenting a medical information training session for public library staff in May. Staff from Port Phillip, Vision Australia and Kingston visited Vision for a day during April and May. A link to the Vision website has been placed on the virtual library infonet. Leneve and David will be visiting Corangamite Library Service in June.

Leneve Jamieson, Customer Services Manager, State Library of Victoria

Statewide Projects 2001/2002

At its meeting on 15 May the Statewide Projects Steering Committee assessed 14 project proposals and made recommendations to the Victorian Library Network Committee (VLNC) of the Library Board on projects valued at \$1,000,765. The summary table of the proposed projects is attached. The detailed project proposals are available from the Library Network Unit.

The VLNC endorsed the recommendations at its meeting on 12 June and the proposals will go to the July meeting of the Board for final approval. Nominations for steering committees for the new and continuing projects will be called for shortly.

Other news

Staff Changes

Damian Tyquin joined the Library Network Unit staff in May replacing Michael Byrne. Damian is the Library Network Unit officer with responsibility for the statewide marketing, LOTE and Disability projects. Damian is on secondment from the RVIB where worked on the Mainstreaming project and as a senior reference librarian.

Interviews are being held on 14 June for a short-term project officer position to replace Tonya Lewis. Tonya will be working on a higher duties assignment for seven months as Senior Policy and Research Officer for the CEO and State Librarian but will continue her role as Executive Officer for the Victorian Library Network Committee.

Structural Changes

As of 1 July 2001 the Library Network Unit Manager will report to Michael Bertie, Director Information Management at the State Library. Michael is also responsible for the VICNET, Information Resources and Technology Services Division of the Library. Michael will be the State Library's representative on the Public Library Policy Reference Group, the Statewide Projects Steering Committee and the Director responsible for the Victorian Library Network Committee replacing Cathrine Harboe-Ree.

Don Schauder has resigned from the Library Board of Victoria and as chair of the Board's Victorian Library Network Committee.

Judy Peppard
Library Network Unit Manager
June 13, 2001