



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

### Inquiry into Libraries ACT QUESTION ON NOTICE

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Mr James Milligan MLA asks the following organisations:

- Australian Library and Information Association;
- Women with Disabilities ACT;
- People with Disabilities ACT;
- ACT Bilingual Education Alliance;
- Canberra Multicultural Community Forum; and
- COTA ACT.

1. Do you have any concerns about the fact that residents of Weston's nearest library is in Woden?

For those with transport, or access to public transport, Woden is only 10 minutes or so away so would seem to serve the needs of most. If there is a problem of access, would it be better to publicise the current services to assist those with transport difficulties for example the community bus service and book delivery options to maximise use of Woden Library?

In addition, we presume that planning would be in place for a major new library centre in the Molongolo Valley. This would give an alternative option for Weston creek residents, hopefully with easier parking possibilities.

2. Would your organisation support the expansion of shop front style libraries (e.g Kingston library) across Canberra? For example at Colloman court and Erindale.

- a. Do you see any advantages to this model of libraries if it meant relocating resources away from the regional libraries?

As we emphasised in our submission, we see libraries as important social and educational centres - for example for English language conversation classes, Giggle and Wiggle programs, bilingual story times and access to computers and computer training. If a shopfront style library could add to the availability of space for such activities, it could improve outreach.

3. Does your organisation support the use of micro libraries – ie old phone boxes, as a way of bringing books and internet access to local suburbs?

- a. Do you see any advantages or disadvantages of this?

b. Do you see any advantages to this model of libraries if it meant relocating resources away from the regional libraries?

It is a nice idea. Neighbours of an ACTBEA member in Chifley have a Dr Who phone box with books in their front garden. She reports that although it is a quiet street with limited through traffic, the phone box and its books delight all who pass by. Is there a list of community-based micro-libraries like this?

Rather than being a top down initiative, would it be possible for libraries speak to schools, clubs and community groups about how to set up and manage their own micro-libraries. This would encourage the community to take ownership and responsibility for their operation, while minimising costs. This could also make available more resources in other languages if well publicised and promoted among multicultural organisations.