



# 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?

Yes CMCF does have concerns about the lack of an ACT public library in Weston, especially now with the Molonglo precinct development.

For the residents of Weston – judging the age of the population and the issues with the public transport system, it would be helpful for Woden Library to consider setting up an out-reach mobile library for the residents, especially in the Aged Care facilities and Independent Units that are located in Weston.

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

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

Yes, please bring back the shop front style model. This is the best option to provide information to the community. One of the issues to consider would be – who is responsible to maintain and update the information that is made available. The shop front style will certainly attract people back to the library.

There is already library at Erindale and Kingston, open Monday to Saturday. CMCF hopes that the current system continues to work in these locations.

Relocating resources – it may be better to increase funding rather than relocate resources. It would be good to share and promote resources available in different languages. The libraries could share their resource or circulate their resources to different regional libraries. The library can use the exhibition style model to promote and display library materials in different languages.

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?

Libraries have computer training rooms for use. If they can be accessible to community groups, CMCF would certainly like to work with the Libraries to provide assistance to promote the use of micro libraries to local suburbs.

Advantages: Ease of accessing the facility, less reliance on transport to travel to a library, less time required to reach a library.

Issues to consider would be - time the libraries open, especially during weekends and after hours.

Relocating resources – it may be better to increase funding rather than relocate resources.