LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 10

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING TRANSPORT AND CITY CERVICES
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Mark Parton MLA

**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA:

Ref: 2.2 Library services Budget Statements H page 35

In relation to: Library collection

Noting the budget allocation to enhance the library collection, how will the collection be enhanced and to what target?

1. Are there targets for the diversity of the content of the library collection? For example, to represent cultural diversity?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The budget allocation to enhance the library collection is for the procurement of new material, added annually to meet the community's demand for new publications, in both physical and digital formats.

   The library has a Collection Development Policy which is reviewed regularly to ensure it meets the diversity of the Canberra community. The library holds material in both physical and digital formats that serve the specific needs of adults and children. Materials to meet the specific needs of some groups are also in the collection, for example, for dyslexic and multicultural communities and adults with low literacy levels.

   In this past financial year, Libraries ACT has added two digital resources that support learning English and Languages Other Than English for children. The library also selects material authored by or about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

   In the recent past, the library has added to its collection more bilingual picture books in a variety of languages such as Arabic, Japanese, Thai and Vietnamese.

   The library has also recently embarked on a project to further develop the disability and inclusion collection.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date: 1/11/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA