

# Statement from Public Libraries WA

9 April 2010

## Funding issue update

There has been some confusion since Premier Barnett's announcement on 720ABC that there will be no cuts to the library materials budget for WA public libraries.

To clarify, in 2009/2010 the State Library of WA library materials budget was cut by 40% to \$6.5m. We do not know what the quantum of funding will be for 2010/11 except that the same low level of funding of \$6.5m p.a. is in the forward estimates for the next two budget periods.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), on behalf of all WA local authorities, has presented a formal business case for increased funding for public libraries to the WA State Government recommending \$11m in the 2010/11 budget.

While it is good news that the Premier has said funding will not be cut, the funding actually needs to be increased if public libraries are to meet customer demand and provide adequate library services. We therefore need to maintain the momentum and continue lobbying for increased funding.

- Postcards and bumper stickers will be available in WA public libraries from next week – members of the public can post these to their local member, Minister, etc
- ALIA has provided a template letter that members of the public and librarians can use to write to their local member via [www.alia.org.au/publiclibraries/](http://www.alia.org.au/publiclibraries/). Thank you very much to ALIA.
- PLWA has contacted 720ABC radio and the Premier's Office to clarify the situation. Individual LGAs are also contacting their local media to clarify and keep the issue going.

Again, we thank you for your support and the many positive suggestions we have received on this issue.

On behalf of Sheena Joyce (President Public Libraries WA), and all WA Public Librarians.

### **Viv Barton**

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