Strategic Plan

**NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES LITERACY WORKING GROUP**
**November 2019 - 2024**

**PREFACE/INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

This Strategic Plan for the Working Group in Library Literacy Services (NSW) will ensure that a planned course is set for the next five years and aims to raise the profile of the Working Group in the Library profession.

The group has targeted adult literacy and numeracy as distinct from English as a Second Language (ESL). Approximately 44% of Australia's adult population have been identified as struggling with functional literacy in the last national survey conducted in 2013. The group has therefore targeted library services in relation to adult literacy as distinct from ESL (English as a Second Language), which is considered to fall under the umbrella of the NSW Public Libraries Multicultural Working Group.

**PROFILE OF WORKING GROUP**

The NSW Public Libraries Literacy Working Group was formed in 2007 by a number of interested people from public libraries. The role of the working group is to support public library staff in the delivery of literacy services and resources, provide advice and promote the provision of library resources to adult clients with literacy needs and adult literacy teachers. The first Strategic Plan was for 2012 – 2017.

**VISION**

Every public library will have an excellent resource collection and services with trained staff that will assist and promote greater literacy for adults in the community with literacy needs.

**MISSION**

To lobby, advise, promote and improve the importance of library services for adult literacy.

**KEY ISSUES FOR SUCCESS**

* Support of the NSW Public Libraries Association NSWPLA
* Support of Library Managers/Council
* Availability of financial resources
* Skills of librarians
* Profile of Literacy Working Group
* Support of the State Library of NSW

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide advice to public libraries through the literacy working group Wiki
2. To promote the Literacy Working Group resources to NSW Public Libraries
3. To showcase literacy partnerships between libraries and other organisations
4. To develop literacy resources in line with national and state initiatives
5. To provide a forum for information exchange
6. To provide professional development opportunities

**KEY RESULT AREAS**

**Objective 1**: To provide advice to public libraries through the Literacy Working Group Wiki
**Strategy 1**: To provide a Core Literacy Collection List
**Action**
- Compile list of items for a core literacy collection for public libraries across NSW including adult literacy software programs.
- Review core list bi-annually

- Provide access to the collection development guidelines of a range of library services.

**Objective 2**: To promote the Literacy Working Group resources to NSW public libraries
**Strategy 2**: To promote the literacy and numeracy services and resources in public libraries
**Action**
- Email library managers, and prepare PLN articles and emails.

- Maintain the Literacy Working Group Wiki so that information is up to date and current

**Objective 3**: To showcase literacy partnerships between libraries and other organisations

**Strategy 3**: Work with the NSW Public Libraries Multicultural Working Group, NSW ALNC (NSW Adult Literacy and Numeracy Council), Reading Writing Hotline and TAFE and Community College Training programs in developing ways to promote and deliver services; Develop partnerships with a view to providing joint programs, promoting public libraries, sharing information
**Action**
- Ask local Colleges of TAFE: What adult literacy resources can the library provide? Invite recommendations for inclusion in the collection which fit within the collection development guidelines

- Promote liaison with local adult education providers including TAFE, community Colleges, AMES, Mission Australia to develop pathways between formal and non-formal literacy learning

- Attend meeting/s of the NSW Public Libraries Multicultural Working Group

- To collect examples of partnerships and link to the programs from the wiki

**Objective 4**: To develop literacy resources in line with national and state initiatives
**Strategy 4**: Be aware of national, state and local projects and initiatives to promote and develop adult literacy – To be ongoing – Report to NSW Public Libraries Literacy Working Group meetings
**Action**
- Monitor government websites and policies
- Monitor literacy groups’ websites
- Monitor publishers and book suppliers for current adult literacy resources
- Monitor current adult basic education in NSW

- Liaise with National Reading Writing Hotline on current national issues

- Identify other sources relevant to literacy field

**Objective 5**: To provide a forum for information exchange
**Strategy 5**: Share practices and ideas in 3 meetings per year, and through the wiki that promote a higher profile of adult literacy resources and services offered by NSW Public Libraries
**Action**
- Schedule three meetings each year: March, August, October

**Objective 6**: To provide professional development opportunities
**Strategy 6**: Training for staff in recognising, identifying and supporting the needs of clients with low literacy
**Action**
- Maintain the wiki to include information on National Reading Writing Hotline e.g. Active Reading online database, Reading books, Writing books, websites, telephone numbers, links on Council websites
- Guest speakers at meetings