

TITLE:	Public Library Service		
DIVISION:	Community Services		
ADOPTED BY:	Barkly Regional Council		
DATE OF ADOPTION:	20 October 2016	DATE OF REVIEW:	20 October 2018
MOTION NUMBER:	OC216/16		
POLICY NUMBER:	CP000051		
AUTHORISED:	Barkly Regional Council		

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO:

All employees of the Barkly Regional Council and its Elected Members

PREAMBLE

The aim of all policy is for Councillors to provide strategic input into the effective operational framework of the organisation under S.11 of the Local Government Act

SUMMARY

The intent of this policy is to provide a clear framework for the provision of a Public Library Service by Barkly Regional Council.

This policy also provides guidance to Library staff in collection management and to inform the public of the principles upon which the library makes decisions regarding selection of collection materials, programs, activities and events.

In delivering library services, Barkly Regional Council supports setting clear and measurable outcomes and will focus on the following outcome principles: -

- Literacy and lifelong learning
- Informed and connected citizens
- Digital inclusion
- Personal development and wellbeing
- Stronger and more creative communities
- Economic and workforce development

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure universal access to library services within the communities
- Reflect community needs and aspirations and engage the community in shaping the library service
- Champion communities cultural identity
- Create partnerships to build community and individual resilience and capacity
- Support literacy, life-long learning and formal education at all levels

BACKGROUND

Council is committed to providing a free public library service to the community (residents, workers, students and visitors) through the Library at Tennant Creek and Elliott.

Council delivers a public library service in partnership with the Northern Territory Government through the provision of a *Public Library Funding Agreement* and *Connect NT*, a collaboration of the public libraries network ensures that Territorians have free access to library services across the Northern Territory. Sharing of resources and expertise across the network is a recognised strength of this model.

Council engages with community members and organisations in shaping library services and champion the unique cultural identity of the region. Access to tools that support and encourage literacy and lifelong learning are a priority. Library staff plays a key role in assisting people to develop their own skills in selecting the information and resources that best meets their needs.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Council concurs with the statement of the Australian Library and Information Association that:-

“Freedom can be protected in a democratic society only if its citizens have unrestricted access to information and ideas”.

Accordingly it is the policy of the Council to provide a public library and information service to residents of the Northern Territory.

The Council will maintain and develop the provision of free public library services to the community.

- **Membership**

Membership is free to any Northern Territory resident on presentation of suitable ID and documentation verifying NT residency. Persons unable to provide proof of a current NT residential address are not eligible for permanent membership. Visitors to the Northern Territory may join Barkly Regional Council Libraries as temporary members, on payment of a refundable security deposit, less the administration fee as described in the Council's fees and charges schedule.

- **Collections**

Council manages and develops library collections that reflect community needs and aspiration. Council will invest in the growing demand for cultural and digital collections and access to digital literacy through virtual library collections. Collection development guidelines will inform the public of the principles upon which the library service makes decisions regarding the collection of library materials, maintenance and use of the collection.

- **Places and Spaces**

Council maintains libraries at Elliott and Tennant Creek. Libraries are accessible to all, **and are space which encourages active participation**, promoting literacy and learning opportunities for all. Library programs delivered in conjunction with other organisations will be prioritised.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Libraries are exposed to risks stemming from environmental conditions and human-driven potential hazards.

In the implementation of the Barkly Regional Council policy development, all Elected Members, employees, communities and stakeholders are encouraged to communicate any risks they perceive to the Chief Executive Officer.

TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

Policy

The Barkly Regional Council Policy sets out what the Council wants to do and how they do it. Policies are formed to meet legislative requirements and to ensure smooth decision making. Policies must be formally adopted in a meeting of Council and comply with the Barkly Regional Council's legal obligations and relevant standards.

Collections

Material that supports literacy needs, individual needs, local stories, history of the region and digital information.

Places and Spaces

A place and space is a location for people and communities to gather to learn, play, explore and share.

Catalogue

A database list of materials held at the library

Events and Programs

Activities that the library undertakes that promotes future things to do in the library

REFERENCES

Australian Library Information Association Guidelines, Standards and outcome measures for Australian Public Libraries July 2016

Australian Library Information Association Statement on Free Access to Information

Code of Ethics for Librarians and other Information Workers - IFLA

Australian Library Information Association Statement on public library services

Barkly Regional Council Library Guidelines- Conditions of Membership

Barkly Regional Council Library Guidelines - Collections, Events, Programs and Services

Northern Territory Local Government Act 2016

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

The Local Government Act establishes the roles, function and objectives of Council with provides the basis of Barkly Regional Council to provide services, facilities and programs that are appropriate to the needs of the community and to ensure equitable access to its services, facilities and programs in the best interests of the community as a whole (Part 2.3).

Australian Library Information Association Guidelines, Standards and outcome measures for Australian Public Libraries July 2016 will guide overall management of the service.

LINKS

<https://www.alia.org.au/about-alia/policies-standards-and-guidelines/statementfree-access-information>

<https://www.alia.org.au/about-alia/policies-standards-and-guidelines/statementpublic-library-services>

https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/20160714%20Guidelines%20Standards%20and%20Outcome%20Measures%20for%20Australian%20Public%20Libraries%20-%20MANUSCRIPT%20VERSION_0.pdf

<http://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-code-of-ethics-for-librarians-and-other-information-workers-full-version>

RESPONSIBILITY AND DELEGATION

Barkly Regional Council
Chief Executive Officer
Director Community Services

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

October 2018