

# Public library service

## Policy No. 0044.100.E.R

### 1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline City of Darwin's commitment to a free library service which will provide all residents of Northern Territory with:

- equitable access to information,
- the opportunity to pursue individual lifelong learning,
- the ability to enjoy recreational interests, and
- access to safe community spaces,

in order that they are able to achieve a desired quality of life and participate in an informed capacity in the community.

City of Darwin's free public library service will be delivered through a decentralised library service model which extends out to the community by maintaining libraries in the suburban areas. The City of Darwin provides a public library and information service to residents, workers, students and visitors. The library provides a range of programs and services, resources and facilities through its physical and digital library services.

City of Darwin concurs with the statement of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) 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 City of Darwin to provide a public library and information service to residents of the Northern Territory.

### 2 Scope

This policy applies to Elected Members, City of Darwin employees, City of Darwin Library members, ratepayers, residents of the City of Darwin, and all people who utilise library services and programs. It operates in conjunction with other relevant policies and procedures.

### 3 Policy statement

City of Darwin will maintain and develop the provision of free public library services to the community.

### 3.1 Membership

Membership is free to any Northern Territory resident on presentation of suitable ID and documentation verifying NT residency. Visitors to the NT, and those who cannot provide full documentation, may be eligible for alternative limited membership types.

Reciprocal borrowing is available to members of other NT public library services and City of Darwin Library members have free access to library services across the NT.

### 3.2 Collections

City of Darwin manages and develops vibrant library collections to meet the informational, cultural and entertainment needs of the Darwin community. The physical collection is enhanced by a comprehensive range of online resources including eBooks, eAudio books, digital magazines and newspapers, and research databases.

City of Darwin maintains collection development guidelines that ensure the maintenance of a current, visually inviting and accessible collection and inform the public of the principles upon which the library service makes decisions regarding the collection.

### 3.3 Partnerships

City of Darwin maintains a relationship and delivers a public library service in partnership with the Northern Territory Government through the provision of a Public Library Funding Agreement.

### 3.4 Children and young people

City of Darwin supports children and young people through the provision of collections and programs that foster an appreciation of literature and promotes the development of information literacy skills.

### 3.5 Places and spaces

City of Darwin maintains four libraries at Casuarina, Darwin City, Nightcliff and Karama. The libraries are accessible for all and are vibrant spaces which encourage active participation and promote lifelong learning opportunities for the community.

Each of the libraries provide free access to current technology and digital infrastructure including Wi-Fi and internet access with PCs, printers and copiers.

### 3.6 Programs

City of Darwin libraries offer a wide range of innovative recreational, educational, wellbeing and cultural programs, events and activities which develop skills, share information, increase awareness and promote the library’s services. They include opportunities for lifelong learning, digital and early childhood literacy programs, cultural activities, literary events and home delivery services.

City of Darwin library programs allow participants of all ages to develop strong and productive connections with their library, other participants and their community, delivering real and significant benefit to individuals and the community.

### 3.7 Staffing

City of Darwin Libraries will provide appropriate skilled, trained or qualified staff to support library users to effectively use the library and resources with the aim to improve literacy, online and digital skills.

## 4 Definitions

ALIA is an abbreviation for the Australia Library and Information Association

APLA is an abbreviation for the Australian Public Library Alliance

IFLA is an abbreviation for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

LANT is an abbreviation for Library & Archives Northern Territory

## 5 Legislative references

*Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*

## 6 Procedures / related documents

2501.100.E.R Privacy Policy

7101.001.I.N Library Membership Guidelines

7101.002.I.N Library ICT Facilities Conditions of Use

7101.003.I.N Libraries Code of Conduct

7105.001.E.N Guideline Collection Development

Casuarina Library Meeting Room Conditions of Use

Version:	Decision Number:	Adoption Date:	Next Review Date:
DRAFT 3	ORD182/25	29 April 2025	29 April 2029

**Responsible Officer: GM Community and Regulatory Services**

*Electronic version current. Uncontrolled copy valid only at time of printing.*

ALIA Code of Ethics for the Australian library and information services workforce

[https://www.alia.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/ALIA-Docs/Research/2024%20ALIA%20CoE\\_long.pdf](https://www.alia.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/ALIA-Docs/Research/2024%20ALIA%20CoE_long.pdf)

ALIA Free access to information statement.

<https://read.alia.org.au/alia-free-access-information-statement>

ALIA Statement on information literacy for all Australians

<https://read.alia.org.au/statement-information-literacy-all-australians>

ALIA Statement on public library services.

<https://read.alia.org.au/statement-public-library-services>

APLA-ALIA Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries

<https://read.alia.org.au/apla-alia-standards-and-guidelines-australian-public-libraries-may-2021>

IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 2022

<https://repository.ifla.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/d414c76e-17ef-4581-9c0f-cc6e250a2743/content>

IFLA Code of Ethics for Librarians and other Information Workers

[http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/faife/publications/IFLA%20Code%20of%20Ethics%20-%20Long\\_0.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/faife/publications/IFLA%20Code%20of%20Ethics%20-%20Long_0.pdf)

LANT Libraries Connecting Communities: Strategic Vision 2023-2028

<https://lant.nt.gov.au/vision-public-libraries>

## 7 Responsibility / application

This policy will be reviewed every four (4) years or as required.

The Executive Manager Library and Family Services is responsible for the implementation and review of this Policy.

All Elected Members and City of Darwin workplace participants are responsible for adhering to this Policy.