

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
- 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 (residents, workers, students and visitors) 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 virtual library services.

City of Darwin 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 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, Council Staff, City of Darwin Library members, ratepayers and residents of the City of Darwin, and all people who utilise library services and programs.

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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. Persons unable to provide proof of a current NT residential address are not eligible for permanent membership.

Visitors to the Northern Territory may join City of Darwin Libraries as a temporary member.

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 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.

Connect NT, a collaboration of the public libraries network ensures that the people of Darwin have free access to library services across the Northern Territory.

3.4 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

City of Darwin supports children & 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, 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.

3.6 PROGRAMS

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, book clubs and home delivery services.

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.

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4 DEFINITIONS

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

5 LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

Local Government Act 2019

6 PROCEDURES / RELATED DOCUMENTS

Libraries for People: Library Strategy 2020-2024

City of Darwin Libraries Code of Conduct

City of Darwin Privacy Policy 033

Australian Library Information Association Statement on public library services.

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

Australian Library Information Association Statement on Free Access to Information.

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

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

7 RESPONSIBILITY / APPLICATION

The General Manager Community and Regulatory Services is responsible for ensuring that this Policy is adhered to and understood by all Elected Members and Council Staff and library users.

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