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| Title: | Public Library Service |
| Policy No: | 044 |
| Adopted By: | Council |
| Next Review Date: | 30/06/2019 |
| Responsibility: | General Manager City Life |
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| Version | Decision Number | Adoption Date | History |
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| 1 | 20\2501 | 23/02/10 | Adopted |
| 2 | 21\3462 | 30/06/15 | Revision Adopted |
| 3 | | | |

1 Policy Summary

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

2 Policy Objectives

The primary purpose of City of Darwin's library service is to 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.

3 Background

Council is committed to providing a free public library service to the community through a decentralised library service model which extends out to the community by maintaining libraries in the suburban areas. The Council 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

4 Policy Statement

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 City of Darwin 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 to meet the needs of the community. Council will invest in the growing demand for digital collections and the provision of increasing access to digital literacy through virtual library collections. It will also have current and up to date collection development guidelines that 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.

Partnerships

Council 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.

Children & Young People

Council 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.

Places and spaces

Council 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.

5 Legislation, terminology and references

The Local Government Act establishes the roles, functions and objectives of Council which provides the basis for City of Darwin 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).

City of Darwin Libraries Code of Conduct

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

6 Implementation and delegation

The implementation of this Policy will be the responsibility of the General Manager City Life.

7 Evaluation and review

This Policy will be evaluated and reviewed at a minimum of once, during the term of Council.