



Statement on Social Inclusion and Learning

1. Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) believes that public libraries have a key role to play in promoting both social inclusion and learning and will facilitate the involvement of libraries in both these areas.
2. The Libraries Building Communities reports produced jointly by PLV (then known as Viclink and later PLVN) and the State Library of Victoria in 2004 clearly demonstrated the role of libraries in promoting community development and social engagement.
3. Free access to information is an essential part of a democratic society and libraries are committed to providing this
4. The Libraries Building Communities reports identified 13% of the population who do not use libraries but would benefit from doing so in terms of recreation, education and social inclusion. Groups represented in the 13% include the unemployed, older adults and members of minority ethnic communities. Libraries will strive to increase the involvement of these groups in library use and programs.
5. Public libraries have a strong role in supporting formal and informal learning. PLV encourages libraries to continue this through their collections and programs.
6. Literacy – print and digital – is essential for people to reach their potential in our society and libraries are committed to increasing literacy in both children and adults.
7. Lifelong learning has an increasing importance in modern society where technological developments mean that people must continually improve their skills. Public Libraries support this through their collections and programs.
8. Libraries are encouraged to develop partnerships with community organisations which foster lifelong learning. These include neighbourhood houses and the University of the Third Age (U3A).

Adopted 12 April 2010