

**28 August 2019**

### **\$894,996 in grants for Queensland public libraries**

Projects that create inclusive spaces for people with disabilities, capture cultural capital or support new parents are some of the exciting Queensland public library initiatives to benefit from nearly \$894,996 in State Government grants, administered by State Library of Queensland.

\$395,164 has been awarded through State Library's Public Library Strategic Priorities Grants, enabling 16 councils to roll out programs and services in their local libraries by July.

The Strategic Priorities Grants help councils realise the full potential of their libraries and allows libraries to address the specific needs of the local community.

About \$500,000 has been awarded through State Library's First 5 Forever Project Grants, which will enable 17 councils to deliver programs that support children's literacy development or empower families by highlighting their role in early literacy.

These project grants are in addition to annual State Library funding to councils to deliver the First 5 Forever early literacy program in their libraries. The grants encourage innovation in the way services are delivered and allows all public libraries to learn from different creative approaches.

In total, 28 councils will be offered funding through the Public Library Strategic Priorities Grants and First 5 Forever Project Grants as part of the Queensland Government's annual support, through State Library of Queensland, of around \$30 million to Queensland's public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres.

These latest grant rounds come after 19 councils received a total of \$72,483 under State Library's new Realising Our Potential Micro Grants round earlier this year, designed to provide quick funding assistance for short-term, time-limited projects.

#### **Quotes from Minister for the Arts Leanne Enoch:**

"Libraries are vital community hubs that provide spaces and programs for learning, literacy and storytelling."

"These grants will allow libraries in regions across the state to deliver locally-focused initiatives that provide learning and engagement opportunities for their communities."

"The Queensland Government is proud to support libraries throughout the state, providing \$5 million funding annually through State Library of Queensland to support First 5 Forever."

#### **Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald:**

"State Library congratulates the recipients of these important grants programs."

"We were impressed by the number and quality of applications we received from councils across the state who want to improve literacy and engagement in their communities."

#### **Media enquiries**

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Interviews and images are available upon request.

“Projects include everything from entrepreneur workshops to the provision of robotics and virtual reality kits in local libraries.”

“It’s wonderful to see some councils using the funding to recognise the United Nation’s 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, an initiative that we are also celebrating at State Library through exhibitions and programming.”

“State Library is proud to work in partnership with more than 320 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres across to Queensland to advance digital inclusion and literacy.”

Grant recipients are detailed overleaf or see <http://plconnect.slq.qld.gov.au/manage/funding-and-grants> for more information.

## Grant recipients

| Council                          | Grant type                 | Funding amount | Project description  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Aurukun Aboriginal Shire Council | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$30,000       | <b>Wik Leading: Koolkan Swamp Bio-Cultural Catalogue</b><br>Led by Traditional Owners and Wik Elders (using the products of a completed Flexi-Ed project, namely: a Dugout Canoe and several Traditional Bark Canoes, a 3D hard copy model and a digital 3D model of the Koolkan Swamp and Wetlands area, along with IKC video equipment), IKC Flexi students and local Wik Elders will access the Koolkan Swamp area located directly behind the Aurukun State School for the purpose of building up a Bio-Cultural Catalogue and data base. This will entail intergenerational knowledge sharing, Traditional Story telling, Wik Artists' expressive works and guided exploration of the Koolkan Wetland area and the digital documenting of these activities and processes. |
| Brisbane City Council            | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$30,000       | <b>Vodcasting and Live-streaming Author Events</b><br>Extend the reach of our author talk program through recording significant events to be live-streamed and uploaded as a post-event video on Facebook.   |
|                                  | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$50,000       | <b>First 5 Forever Partnerships and Extended Community Outreach</b><br>Brisbane Libraries will progress new opportunities for First 5 Forever outreach, deepening existing partnerships and engagement to focus on new target audiences, including projects with first-time parents through the hospital and child health network and Indigenous organisations. Early literacy resources will expand early literacy development and assist parents and carers with engaging activities they can do with their children in their own environment.   |
| Cairns Regional Council          | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$30,000       | The <b>Full STEAM Ahead</b> project is where Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics come together with a bang! Cairns Libraries will power ahead with a dynamic program that encompasses:<br>1. the development and delivery of STEAM library and outreach activities, events and programs for young people, adults and seniors including:<br>• School holiday and after school activities<br>• All-age and inter-generational drop-in activities<br>• Identified events e.g.  |

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|                               |                            |             | <p>Youth Week, Fun Palace, Science Week and Seniors Week.</p> <p>2. development of partnerships and networks with groups, organisations, and schools to deliver and promote STEAM activities and events.</p> <p>3. development of staff STEAM skills, including volunteers, through training, mentoring and professional development.</p> <p>4. the renewal and upgrade of existing robotics and coding equipment.</p> <p>5. the purchase of new robotics and coding equipment.</p> <p>6. development and purchase of STEAM resources &amp; kits.</p>   |
| Cloncurry Shire Council       | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$44,245    | <p><b>Spreading First 5 Forever</b></p> <p>With a focus on engaging the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander community, especially in the Dajarra township, the project will provide culturally significant First 5 Forever resources and content. Local Elders will be engaged to provide cultural advice and assist with presenting storytime sessions. Library staff will benefit from cultural awareness training, participate in yarning circles and build inclusive relationships that will encourage Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander people to attend future library events and programs.</p>   |
| Cook Shire Council            | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$12,960    | <p><b>Indigenous Languages Nursery Rhymes</b></p> <p>Council will work with local Indigenous artists to translate four popular nursery rhymes into local Aboriginal Guugu Yimithirr and Kuku Yalanji languages. These rhymes will then be used in First 5 Forever Rhyme Time sessions at Cook Shire Libraries and shared with the neighbouring Indigenous Knowledge Centres at Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale, and other community groups.</p>   |
| Fraser Coast Regional Council | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$16,373.50 | <p><b>Hearing Accessibility Technology</b></p> <p>The installation of hearing loops in the community Creative Spaces at the Hervey Bay and Maryborough libraries and a portable hearing augmentation system at the Tiaro Library for use in the Tiaro Community Centre space where Tiaro Library activities are held, as well as an overhead data projector at the Maryborough Library will provide hearing impaired community members greater access to the various library programs being offered. Hearing loops are assistive listening systems which transmit sound directly to enabled hearing aids and other types of hearing devices. An overhead data projector would maximise limited floor space in our community space at the Maryborough Library and provide the necessary visual information and subtext required by the hearing impaired at library programs. The libraries currently host special interest group sessions, visiting speakers, technology</p> |

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|                                    |                            |          | classes, workshops, film screenings. This new technology can provide more equitable and inclusive access for our community.  |
| Gladstone Regional Council         | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$9,000  | <b>After School Project- STE(a)M Ahead and Who Arted</b><br>The project will consist of two after-school programs run on alternate weeks during term and will target children aged between eight and sixteen years. Through STE(a)M Ahead we are investing in learning and digital literacy for our younger members by providing activities that explore curiosity through scientific methods. Who Arted is a similar program focusing on creative self-expression and problem solving to create handmade objects ranging from portraits to hand-sewn toys. Both programs will utilise our library spaces to provide dynamic learning opportunities, with a strong focus on communication and problem solving as children will be required to work together to complete most activities.   |
| Hinchinbrook Shire Council         | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$16,309 | <b>First 5 Forever in Hinchinbrook</b><br>The project will deliver First 5 Forever resources that capture unique stories from the three local language groups. Using these resources, First 5 Forever programming will be extended to include monthly Indigenous focused, culturally appropriate, early learning opportunities. Once those resources are created, the aim is to launch the developed resources with a community focused corroboree and family fair embracing the whole community of the Hinchinbrook Shire.  |
| Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$30,000 | <b>Hope Vale IKC Showcase Room</b><br>The Hope Vale Indigenous Knowledge Centre plays an important role in providing a gateway to knowledge and culture for local community and external visitors to our region. Currently the entrance and foyer of the IKC is in poor condition as it is open to the elements and subject to inclement weather. In addition the area is fully enclosed with a steel mesh security gate at the front of the foyer that is both unattractive and may act to deter visitors from entering the facility. The intent of the project is to improve and redevelop the entrance and foyer to provide a welcoming feature for all visitors that would include historical and cultural displays. It is expected that the project benefits will see an increase visitor numbers, both local and external, and add a higher level of interest in the IKC and the services available. |
| Livingstone Shire Council          | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$43,493 | <b>Dedicated First 5 Forever Van</b><br>The First 5 Forever van will provide a way to connect rural communities to programming and resources they may not have access to due to distance, social isolation or lack of transport. The van, with a full complement of equipment and resources, will be wrapped   |

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|                                 |                            |          | with First 5 Forever branding providing high visibility of the First 5 Forever message and promote the programs and services wherever it is taken.   |
| Lockyer Valley Regional Council | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$30,000 | <b>Lockyer Valley Story Trail</b><br>The Lockyer Valley Story Trail will offer a unique experience for both children and adults. The Story Trail will be placed on walking tracks at popular parks in the Lockyer Valley, sharing First 5 Forever messages in a fun and interactive way. Producing a unique local story that explores local animals and habitats will connect children and adults to their surroundings and bring the words to life. Throughout the story trail children and adults will be exposed to repetitive, descriptive and directional movement words incorporating the First 5 Forever messages of read, play, talk and sing. The story will be adaptable to any environment, making it a useful tool for other areas in Queensland.  |
| Logan City Council              | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$30,000 | <b>The Logan Inclusive Libraries Initiative</b><br>This project aims at making Logan Libraries more accessible to all, including those requiring special facilities. Building on the success of Logan Libraries' accessibility and sensory spaces, the Logan Inclusive Library Initiative will revitalise the Accessibility Centre at Logan North Library and provide an opportunity for the inclusion of accessible equipment to be installed at all nine library locations across the City of Logan. The intended outcome of this project is to break down the barriers of access for many in the community and to allow Logan Libraries to continue to meet the contemporary needs and future expectations of the community in a 21st century library environment. This includes people who experience barriers to creative, economic, learning and literacy opportunities. |
|                                 | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$48,315 | <b>Logan's Little Learning STARS (STARS - STORYTELLING, TALKING, ACTIVITIES, READING &amp; SINGING)</b><br>The project will focus on support for expectant mothers, new parents and families with babies up to 18 months of age. This project will provide the opportunity to amplify existing baby time programs held in libraries and to create more baby and family friendly library spaces by increasing the opportunities for families to spend time playing and learning together. There will also be a focus on workforce development and creating new early years resources such as story swags, song bags, treasure baskets and learning games. All activities and resources will be based on families being able to replicate them in their home environment and includes support for the "Welcome Jarjums to Country" celebration.                                  |
| Longreach Regional Council      | Strategic Priorities       | \$14,000 | <b>MagickFloor@theLibrary@Longreach</b><br>Purchase and introduce an exciting and unusual new medium - an interactive floor with   |

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|                              | Grant                      |             | visual effects that turns the observer into a participant by touch or play. The new pathway would enable an engaging, fun and educational experience accessible to all. Usage of this innovative technology complements diversity and extension of our services promoting learning, wellbeing and recreational activities. Educational and recreational activities assist develop language and communications skills, social interaction and life skills, thinking and problem solving and new physical skills that will all be available from our library.   |
| Mackay Regional Council      | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$29,934.82 | <b>Mackay Pop Up Library</b><br>Pop Up Libraries are rapidly becoming one of the most effective ways to reach out to community residents who are in need our services and manages to excite customers of the library that are currently under utilising our services and programs. The Mackay Pop Up Library would promote our library collections, e-resources and programs, as well as, increasing memberships and use of the libraries resources. Popping up in unique and unusual community locations such as; emergency evacuation centres, local markets, shopping centres, parks and community events. This service would expand our visibility in the community as a library that is on the move. |
| Mareeba Shire Council        | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$10,092    | <b>First 5 Forever -SPLASH AND SING</b><br>Utilising the Dimbulah Community Centre to run a weekly pool based rhyme time session, the Splash And Sing interactive sessions will include stories, rhymes and active movement songs for children aged from 6 months to 5 years. Our poolside pop-up library will be designed to introduce young children and their parents to the library and our First 5 Forever program. This outreach activity permits the library to deliver its services in a creative, recreational space.  |
| Moreton Bay Regional Council | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$29,100    | <b>Activating Our Welcoming Places</b><br>This project will engage the local Indigenous language groups specific to the Moreton Bay North region. Communities in Albany Creek, Caboolture, Redcliffe, Bribie Island and Deception Bay will be engaged to share the local language and reactivate the Welcoming Places in these Moreton Bay Region Libraries (MBRL). Furthermore, the language content will be shared online through Council and libraries' website to enhance the value, awareness, preservation and sustainability of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (hereafter referred to as Indigenous) languages specific to Moreton Bay North region.   |
|                              | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$35,139    | <b>Festival of Play and Pop-Up Play Space</b><br>The Festival of Play initiative aims to extend children's early literacy and language development through play. The construction of Pop-Up Play Spaces (PUPS) incorporates   |

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|  |                            |          | action-learning creative workshops, which will engage participants in the design of the transportable PUPS for use across the council's libraries.  |
| Noosa Shire Council                      | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$7,000  | <b>Wunya Ngulum : Gubbi Gubbi Welcome Book Project</b><br>In acknowledgement of the traditional owners and custodians of the Gubbi Gubbi lands, of which Noosa Shire is a part, and in recognition of the 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages, this project will introduce pre-schoolers, toddlers and families to some basic Gubbi Gubbi language through storytelling, song, and printed resources. Regular programs for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers in library branches begin with a simple acknowledgement that is accessible to young children. "Wunya" means "welcome" ("Wunya Ngulum" = Welcome everyone) and each session begins with this greeting. Working with local Gubbi Gubbi leaders, Noosa libraries will build a vocabulary for story times that enhances the growing repertoire of songs and stories to incorporate local Gubbi Gubbi language.      |
| Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$10,000 | <b>First 5 to You!</b><br>The First 5 to You project is a mobile program to increase the community's participation in First 5 Forever programming whilst promoting the Indigenous Knowledge Centres at local events, markets and activities. The project will create opportunities for families to engage with IKC staff and become more active members through interaction with each other before and after story time sessions.   |
| Rockhampton Regional Council             | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$30,000 | <b>CQ Readers &amp; Writers Festival: Rocky Reads Roald</b><br>Inaugural CQ Readers' & Writer's Festival: Rocky Reads Roald combines literary themes focusing on the rich diversity of subversive writing, using the springboard of Roald Dahl Day, Friday 13 September 2019. The festival will explore unconventional aspects of writing, language, deconstructed book art, unreliable narrators, tattoo art, anti-authoritarian voices and fractured fairytales for an all age audience. An important element of the festival will be presenting 'Up Late @ the Library' sessions which will link to the dark underbelly of Roald Dahl writing for an adult audience. The event will focus on author talks, lectures, workshops, recitations, slams, readers' theatre and performances themed to the Roald Dahl brand in and around the libraries and the civic precinct. |
|  | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$50,000 | <b>Pop Up First 5 Forever Outreach</b><br>The project will consist of targeted First 5 Forever outreach at diverse community events throughout the year with a dedicated marketing campaign. To support new parents and carers entering the First 5 Forever outreach space or libraries, Baby and Toddler 'Stay, Play and Chat' kits will be utilised as a creative way of retaining visitors in the outreach   |

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|                                 |                            |          | and library spaces with a constantly changing display of interactive elements each month to encourage and prolong active engagement.  |
| Scenic Rim Regional Council     | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$49,500 | <b>First 5 Forever Travelling Van</b><br>A high-roofed van will be wrapped in bright First 5 Forever and library images and be outfitted with all the equipment required to hold a pop-up story time. With a significant proportion of the council's population farm-based and serviced by small villages, the travelling van will be able to connect with these groups in their home spaces to provide support, share new ideas and hold innovative programs. The vans messaging will act like a giant mobile billboard spreading the word that "you are your child's first and most important teacher". Not only will parents be made aware of the importance of early learning, but the community will be exposed the importance of everyday interactions with little ones.  |
| Southern Downs Regional Council | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$18,000 | <b>Southern Downs History - a digitisation project</b><br>Southern Downs Libraries will partner with the custodians of significant Local History (LH) collections - such as historical societies and museums - to digitise their records and catalogue them into the Library Management System (LMS) Archives module. The project aim is a fully catalogued and curated record of LH resources that contributes to the preservation of the region's historical record for future generations.   |
| Sunshine Coast Regional Council | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$19,000 | <b>The Podcasting Project</b><br>Sunshine Coast Libraries (SCL) will provide the region with a podcasting studio or booth that includes recording equipment, editing software and effective sound minimisation treatment. The podcasting studio space will be supported by a series of development sessions provided to customers by external specialists and library staff. Session content will include how to create engaging high quality content plans and technical training in the use of podcasting equipment and software. Development sessions will be designed for both customers directly and library staff to pass on their knowledge to customers while using and booking the facilities. This will allow the Sunshine Coast community to use the specialised space, equipment and resources to create their own content for publishing on podcast platforms such as iTunes, Spotify, Google Play and SoundCloud. |
| Townsville City Council         | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$30,000 | <b>Townsville CityLibraries' Entrepreneur-in-Residence</b><br>This project consists of an in-house and outreach program including staff training. Designed with the Smart Townsville Strategy as guide, it will be designed and delivered by an experienced entrepreneur and accompanied by five presentations by local intra, and  |

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|                                |                            |             | interstate specialist entrepreneurs. The objectives of the project include an increase in awareness by the local community, of the value of entrepreneurship to the local economy; an increase in the awareness of the library as a local resource and program development. Individual appointment-based mentoring within the library space will be provided.   |
|                                | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$49,928    | <b>Toddler STEAM Team (TST)</b><br>The project incorporates and extends First 5 Forever strategies and key messages to deliver an introduction for families to explore STEAM. The intention is to de-mystify STEAM for parents and caregivers while creating and engaging with families in group accessible and transferable learning opportunities. Sensory STEAM kits will be developed to include staff instructions, play-based activities, engagement cards and take home activities. The key outcomes of the project are to equip local families and library staff with skills in computational thinking, creative problem solving and digital literacy.  |
| Weipa Town Authority           | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$4,350     | <b>Convertible PlaySpace</b><br>The convertible PlaySpace will allow staff to modify the library on a regular basis to keep our community interested and engaged in First 5 Forever programming. It will create a free community space where families can feel comfortable interacting with library resources, staff and other program participants.  |
| Western Downs Regional Council | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$29,756.55 | <b>Western Downs Makerspace &amp; Pop-up Tech Lab</b><br>This project will reinvigorate, reinvent and extend the existing creative spaces in our Dalby branch with a collection of new technology and programs. When complete, the Makerspace will incorporate a comprehensive audio/video recording studio capable of livestreaming content, a robust 3D modelling lab with 3D printing and scanning capabilities, and a multi-use VR Cube for both content creation and consumption. The project will also deliver Pop-up Tech Labs, which will address the challenge of distance, isolation and poor connectivity in our region. Two roving 3D Printer, virtual reality, and Laptop kits, will be deployed at our remote branches and in outreach programming. We have identified existing programming such as #STEAMSquad, Be Connected, Fun Palaces and Tech Savvy Seniors which will immediately activate the spaces. We have on our roadmap development of a 2019 Hackathon, International Games Day activities and fee-for-service options. |
| Whitsunday Regional Council    | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$23,500    | <b>Kids Talk, Munch and Move</b><br>The project will create targeted resource kits for all four library branches within the Whitsunday Library Service that will encourage exploration of nutrition, physical activity  |

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|                                      |                            |          | and co-operative play. Language development will be a key aspect of this project with children exposed to simple procedures, instructional language and new vocabulary through sessions that focus on language skills for children aged 0-5 years.  |
| Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council  | Strategic Priorities Grant | \$20,000 | <p><b>MakerSpace Woorabinda</b></p> <p>Through this Grant Woorabinda Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) will establish a "MakerSpace" to encourage our young people to develop an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through interactive learning. Elders, community members and technical experts will work with IKC Staff to develop programs that incorporate a Cultural lens for technical learning. Through the pilot, project IKC will build a collection of materials required to ensure this project is sustainable. ICK and Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council (WASC) intend to continue the MakerSpace concept as part of our regular activities. IKC will access the "Kits for Loan" library through SLQ which will provide variety for individuals to continue to build skills and satisfy their thirst for learning. Participants will also be encouraged to research new projects that can be delivered through the MakerSpace concept so that activities continue to grow along with the participants knowledge and skill level.</p> |
| Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council | First 5 Forever Grant      | \$15,000 | <p><b>Digital CampFire</b></p> <p>The campfire setting is traditionally how stories and lore are shared. The CampFire setting will be recreated within the library and demonstrate how technology can promote knowledge sharing and cultural awareness. The participants, including dads, can learn about culture and share stories with their children. There will be a focus on language skills to nurture the local Yalingi language.</p>  |