

10 February 2020

### **\$347,465 in grants for Queensland public libraries**

A rugby league star who champions literacy, a travelling pop-up library and singing sessions at a local pool are just some of the innovative public library initiatives to benefit from \$347,465 in State Government grants.

The grant package has been awarded through State Library of Queensland's First 5 Forever Innovation and Community Literacy Champions grants, enabling 20 Queensland councils to roll out localised programs, services or campaigns to support families with young children (aged 0-5).

Eighteen councils will be offered a share of \$284,465 for First 5 Forever Project Grants. The grants support initiatives that promote stronger language and early literacy environments for local families. An additional \$63,000 will be shared between five councils to engage local champions to raise awareness of the importance of early literacy among their communities.

The grants are part of \$5 million in State Government funding provided to councils each year to deliver the First 5 Forever early literacy program in libraries across the state.

#### **Grant highlights:**

- \$8,932 for **Scenic Rim Council** to engage a rugby league personality to promote the importance of early literacy at local football matches
- \$16,910 for **Whitsunday Regional Council** to partner with the local PCYC on a "Early literacy is everybody's business" campaign
- \$26,564 for **Moreton Bay Regional Council** to launch a "My First Library Card" initiative partnering with local hospitals to target new parents and encourage them to access free early literacy support at the library
- \$12,762 for **Somerset Regional Council** to purchase a pop-up library trailer to travel the region and promote the importance early literacy to geographically remote families
- \$9,916 for **Tableland Libraries** to provide free early literacy 'Splash and Sing' sessions at the Atherton pool.

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

"The Palaszczuk Government has made an ongoing commitment to support First 5 Forever with funding of \$20 million to support Queensland families and primary caregivers to provide a strong literacy foundation for children aged 5 and under.

"Libraries are vital community hubs that provide spaces and programs for learning, literacy and storytelling, and this funding will go a long way in providing learning and engagement opportunities for Queenslanders."

"The First 5 Forever program, coordinated by State Library of Queensland, recognises the importance of literacy and language development in the first five years of a child's life and provides families with information, resources and support to encourage them to talk, read, sing and play.

#### **Media enquiries**

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Interviews and images are available upon request.

“Since launching in 2015, First 5 Forever activities have attracted more than 2.5 million attendances in public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres across the state, contributing to the Palaszczuk Government’s objective to give all our children a great start.”

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

“This grant rounds demonstrates how councils continue to deliver innovative services to their communities – from sessions in public pools and hardware stores to partnering with local heroes to spread the importance of reading, talking, singing and playing”

“It’s these creative approaches which help libraries ensure all families are welcome and receive free, inclusive support.”

“State Library congratulates all grant recipients and 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.”

*For the full list of grant recipients please contact State Library.*