

SUBMISSION OUT NOW

The National Co-ordinating Committee of the Commonwealth Assistance for Public Libraries Campaign (CAPL) has been busy arguing the case for Federal Government funding or multicultural public library services on two fronts.

Submission on Federal Government Funding for Multicultural Public Library Services. As readers of *InCite* will have noticed, a summary of the main arguments for Commonwealth Government assistance for multicultural public library services appeared as an insert in *InCite* dated April 4, 1986.

The full submission, outlining the case in greater detail, has now been finalised and has been submitted to the Jupp Committee which was established by the Federal Government to review multicultural programs and services. Copies of the full submission and extra copies of the summary are available from Head Office on request.

The National Co-ordinating Committee wishes to publicise the submission and seeks the help of all LAA members in this. It has also been suggested that State Campaign Coordinators organise public meetings in capital cities to explain the progress of the campaign and to publicise the arguments contained in the submission. It is hoped that these meetings will take place within the next two-three months.

The National Language Policy Report In February, Derek Whitehead from the National Co-ordinating Committee took part in a delegation organised by the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) which spoke to a number of Federal Members of Parliament about the delay in implementing the recommendations of the *Report on a National Language Policy* which was prepared by the Senate Standing Committee on Education and the Arts in 1984.

This report recommends:

Recommendation 107: The Commonwealth Government should consider providing additional funds to public libraries to increase their holdings of materials and services for minority linguistic groups, providing that the State Governments maintain their current efforts in this area.

Recommendation 108: State and Public libraries and the State Government bodies responsible for adult migrant education should discuss the provision of materials and services for learners of English as a second language, with a view to determining and providing adequate library services.

Recommendation 109: The Commonwealth Government and State Governments should establish a comprehensive national program of library services for persons with communication handicaps.

Recommendation 110: State library bodies and public libraries should adopt the recommendations of the *Standards for Multicultural Public Library Service* concerning staff development and training.

Recommendation 111: Library authorities in all States and Territories should make provision for regular consultation with ethnic, Aboriginal and handicapped groups.

The LAA is very concerned that the *Report on a National Language Policy* was produced some 16 months ago but that no action has yet been taken by the Federal Government. The CAPL committee has written to the Minister for Education, Senator Ryan, expressing concern at the delay in implementing the report

and would like to encourage members of the Association to write to their local Federal Member of Parliament about the issue.

- **WRITE TO:** Your local federal Member of Parliament (Names and addresses can be obtained from LAA Head Office)
- **HOW TO WRITE:** Send either a hand-written letter or a typed letter, either from yourself personally or from your library or council. It will be best if the letters are expressed in your own words.
- **WHAT TO WRITE:** Some suggestions are given below on what to write:

What is being done?

The report was printed in December 1984. When will the Government implement its recommendations? When will it announce its response?

National Consultative Council

The report recommends setting up a National Consultative Council (recommendation 2) on language in Australia. (If such a body is established, the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia would like it to include an LAA/AACOBS representative.) What is the attitude of the Government/Opposition to this recommendation? Does the Government plan to set up the Council? The FECCA delegation regarded the Council as the essential first step.

Funding for libraries

The Senate Committee recommended federal financial assistance to public libraries. When will this be implemented? Express support for its implementation.

Consultation

Senator Ryan said in the Senate on February 24, 1986 that the Government planned to consult widely in preparing its response regarding the proposed National Language Policy. When will these consultations start? Who will be consulted? Will libraries be consulted, and if so, how?

Support

Does the local Member of Parliament support the recommendations of the national language policy report? (This information is very useful for campaigns in support of the policy.)

- **REASONS FOR WRITING:** Writing to your local MHR (or Senator) means that we will find out what Members of Parliament think, and whether they are committed to the national language policy.

More important, it means that they will ask the Minister responsible for the National Language Policy, Senator Susan Ryan, to answer your questions. The more letters and questions she receives, the more she will be aware of community feeling on the matter.

For further information please contact Louise Lansley at LAA Head Office.

Louise Lansley
Industrial Information
and Research Officer

Inserts this issue

Marler Haley Leaflet
Vic — Vic Branch Notice
NSW — Kuring-gai CAE Alumni
Invitation

JAMES COOK BICENTENARY SCHOLARSHIP 1986/87

Dr Toby Burrows, of the University of Western Australia Library, has been awarded the James Cook Bicentenary Scholarship for 1986/87. He intends to study the reaction to and management of the present financial problems in British university libraries.

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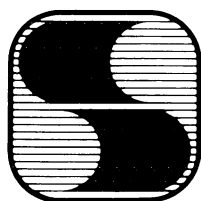


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