

## COMMONWEALTH ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES CAMPAIGN

As previously reported in *InCite*, the National Co-ordinating Committee of the Commonwealth Assistance to Public Libraries Campaign has written to every Federal MHR and Senator seeking support for the *Submission on Commonwealth Assistance to Multicultural Public Library Services* and expressing concern at the Government's delay in implementing the recommendations of the *Report on a National Language Policy*.

At the time of going to press, 42 replies had been received from Federal politicians. As was to be expected many have merely acknowledged receipt of the summary to the submission, however 9 politicians have also indicated their support for the matters raised in the submission, these are:

- Senator Baden Teague (SA)

- Senator Chris Puplick (NSW)
- Gary Punch MHR (Barton, NSW)
- Len Keogh MHR (Bowman, Qld)
- Tom McVeigh MHR (Groom, Qld)
- Keith Wright MHR (Capricornia, Qld)
- David Jull MHR (Fadden, Qld)
- Michael Hodgman MHR (Denison, Tas)
- Senator Ted Robertson (NT)

Senator Teague, who was a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Education and the Arts which produced the National Language Policy Report, released the statement reproduced below in response to the LAA/AACOBS submission:

In addition, the Local Government Association of South Australia has indicated its support for the LAA/AACOBS submission.

*Louise Lansley*

### PATIENCE WEARING THIN ON LANGUAGE POLICY RESPONSE DELAY

It is time for the Government to stop procrastinating and bring down its response to the national language policy report, Senator Baden Teague (Liberal, South Australia) said today.

Senator Teague said the Government had lost credibility with many community and ethnic organizations because of its failure to make a prompt response to the report.

The report, produced by the Senate Standing Committee on Education and the Arts, was published in December 1984.

"Since its release the Minister for Education, Senator Ryan, has twice told the Senate the Government's response would be delayed," Senator Teague said.

Senator Ryan had told the Senate that the Government would make a response by September last year. But in November last year she told a meeting of the Modern Language Teachers' Association of the ACT that the Government would "shortly respond" to the report.

The latest delay came in February when the Minister said a response would be made "in the next few months".

The report made a total of 117 recommendations, which included the establishment of a national advisory council for language policy and a national task force to look at the reform of legal language.

The report also recommended that the Government "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".

Senator Teague said that the latest group to become disenchanted was the Library Association of Australia and the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services.

"They are calling on the Government to provide direct financial assistance to public libraries to enable them to provide library materials and services to all people in Australia," Senator Teague said.

In a submission to the Government's Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services, the two organizations call on the Government to provide development grants of \$4 million over two years and recurrent grants of about \$1 million annually.

The organizations say that library services to users of languages other than English still fall "very much below the level of services to English speakers".

Senator Teague said the patience of language teachers, ethnic groups, academics, Aboriginals, handicapped people and others with a vital interest in a national language policy, was wearing thin.

"Any further delays will only further discredit the Government in the eyes of ethnic groups and others who support a national language policy," Senator Teague said.

### Towards a National Language Policy

#### Summary of Recommendations

##### Libraries

*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 (paragraph 13.9).

*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 (paragraph 13.10).

*Recommendation 109:* The Commonwealth Government and State Governments should establish a comprehensive national program of library services for persons with communication handicaps (paragraph 13.14).

*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 (paragraph 13.18).

*Recommendation 111:* Library authorities in all States and Territories should make provision for regular consultation with ethnic, Aboriginal and handicapped groups (paragraph 13.19).

### DTX VIDEOTEX SERVICE

On April 16 a group of teacher librarians gathered at St Hilda's Girls School to see a demonstration of the DTX Videotex Service by Directronics Australia. The service was started in Perth in 1985 and is now Australia wide. Its databases are still limited but are expanding all the time. They already include news, weather, sport, stock market, goods and services directories (a videotex yellow pages), and booking services. Videotex also offers such facilities as billboard, electronic mail, mail ordering and other specialised services.

The joining fee is \$50 and the public services cost only a local phone call. The more specialised areas which are charged for are only accessible by a further password (this of course means students using the service cannot run up bills). Like Viatel, DTX Videotex has a wide range of uses in the school ranging from computer awareness to Economics. Teacher librarians who attended the meeting felt that school libraries would have to look closely at buying this new technology.

School Libraries Section  
WA Group

# The Essential BOOK

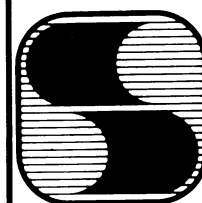
Find out all the details of the **BOOK Automated Library System** when you visit the **LAA Conference in Darwin.**

Meet our library professionals at the **Stowe Computing stand (No 46 Level 3 at the Beaufort Centre)** and they will provide you with information about the **BOOK system.**

Discover why **BOOK** is Australia's most accepted **Automated Library System** —it's been chosen by more than **45 libraries.** See why **BOOK** has been operating successfully in libraries since **1981** and, above all, find out how **BOOK** can assist you in the operations of **YOUR LIBRARY.**

**PS: If you aren't going to the LAA Conference you can still obtain information by telephoning one of the people below:**

**Adelaide:** Mike Sly (08) 224 0100  
**Melbourne:** Paul Anderson (03) 690 4788  
**Sydney:** Kay Clarke (02) 411 2455



**STOWE  
COMPUTING  
AUSTRALIA**

211 Flinders Street, Adelaide 5000 (08) 224 0100