

Library and Information Week

Message from the Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation, Peter McGauran MP

Learning is a lifelong experience — an exciting journey of gathering, understanding and dissecting information in its many forms.

This year the theme of Australian Library and Information Week 2001 is *Knowledge Outlook* — an opportunity to celebrate our never-ending quest for knowledge and recognise the librarians who support our endeavours.

Libraries continually evolve. They are prime examples of institutions successfully harnessing new technologies, and guide us through an ever-increasing volume of information.

More than ever, the modern librarian is a knowledge manager, and an invaluable navigator for the information age.

The Federal Government continues to support our outstanding library systems and the pursuit of knowledge through the Book Industry Assistance Plan (BIAP).

The Plan includes the Educational Textbook Subsidy Scheme (ETSS) — a program which provides a subsidy enabling retail sellers to reduce the price of textbooks for stu-

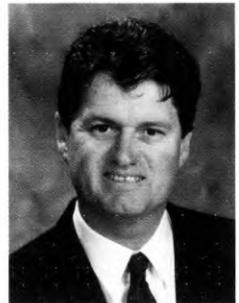
dents studying at Australian educational institutions. This funding exceeds \$117 million over four years.

Another part of BIAP includes Grants to Primary School Libraries. These funds support the purchase of Australian books for libraries across the nation. Funding is \$27.75 million over four years.

This assistance, plus other components of the BIAP, is in recognition of the invaluable contribution made by Australian authors and the publishing industry to the community.

This support will nurture Australia's creative future and ensure that an appreciation of Australian literature is passed on to future generations.

I encourage you to visit your local library during Library and Information Week 2001 and take inspiration from the week's many activities. ■



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