

can't be all bad  
(WC Fields)

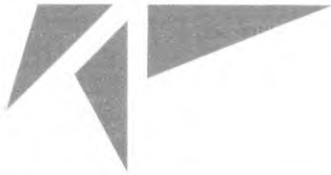
The issue was also raised at a Viclink meeting a couple of years back and the Children's and Youth Services sub-committee gathered together various policies dealing with unattended children. In particular they highlighted the Children's Policy Guidelines for NSW Public Libraries (developed by State Library NSW) which is a quite strongly worded statement: [http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/policies/pdf/childrens\\_policy\\_2005.pdf](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/policies/pdf/childrens_policy_2005.pdf)

I think the main things to remember are that we do have a duty of care whether we like it or not, we want to be welcoming, and our staff need to know how to respond when they have issues with unattended children in the library.

And as the (not so great) 19th century writer, Mary Howitt says:

God sent children for another purpose than merely to keep up the race – to enlarge our hearts, to make us unselfish, and full of kindly sympathies and affections; to give our souls higher aims, and to call out all our faculties to extended enterprise and exertion; to bring round our fireside bright faces and happy smiles, and loving tender hearts. My Soul blesses the Great Father every day, that he has gladdened the earth with Little Children.

**Christine Mackenzie**  
CEO, Yarra Plenty Regional Library



## PNG's top librarian suffers fatal heart attack

The Director General of the Office of Libraries and Archives of Papua New Guinea, Daniel Paraide, 49, died unexpectedly on 15 December 2006. The *PNG Post-Courier* reported that he had a heart attack while travelling in Port Moresby. Efforts to revive him at the Pacific International Hospital were unsuccessful.

He had led efforts to upgrade the National Library and was to begin work in early 2007 as manager of the K7 million AusAID project to refurbish the library – an anniversary gift to PNG from the Australian people.

PNG's Acting Prime Minister Don Polye later proposed a program to monitor the health and medical conditions of all senior bureaucrats in the public service, public sector, scientific fields and others.



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