



Official Newsletter of the Australian Learning Communities Network

Incorporated in NSW. No: 9883167

## **Welcome new members from Marion City\***

Meet the coordinators from Marion Library and Neighbourhood Centres coordinators: Cassandra Gibson-Pope & Liz Byrnes

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## **\*11 Cities designated as Lifelong Learning Cities in the Republic of Korea\***

On June 12, the Ministry of Education (MOE) of the Republic of Korea and the Korean National Institute for Lifelong Learning (NILE) designated 11 cities to be Lifelong Learning Cities, bringing the number of Lifelong Learning Cities in the Republic of Korea to 129.

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## **\*A comparison of ebooks and e lending in Australian Public Libraries 2013 v 2014\***

This report compares an ebooks and e lending survey completed in January 2013 to the same survey completed in May 2014 and will be produced annually to show ebook and e lending trends over time

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## **\*Alternative education and transition pathways\***

This study examined the tangible and intangible 12 month outcomes achieved by disadvantaged young people participating in an alternative learning program in regional Australia.

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## **\*Bookcraft session a lot of fun...and nobody got hurt\***

The weekend Book Craft workshop at Glenelg Libraries went off incredibly well thanks to the expertise of library staffer, Danielle. Twelve women gamely cut into their discarded library books, at first with apprehension, then with glee, as the books (past their shelf life) become works of art in a different way.

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## **\*Child Social Exclusion and health outcomes\***

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## **\*Community Collective Investment\***

The group is a collaboration between local businesses, not-for-profit groups and governments and aims to improve the lives of disadvantaged members of the community.

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## **\*Congratulations Melton\***

ALCN Member Melton City Council recently received the National Economic Development Australia Award for the category Business/Industry Development for its Building Melton Together Project (BMT). BMT is a City of Melton Community Learning Board project and is an example of how a Learning Communities approach can be applied to achieve significant employment and economic outcomes in a Local Government Area.

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### **\*e Smart Libraries\***

eSmart Libraries is a behaviour-change system for libraries to improve cybersafety and wellbeing and deal with cyberbullying.

[Read more](#)

### **\*Free Homework Help\***

Helping young people with homework can be a difficult and time-consuming task. Hume Libraries facilitates the Homework Help program, a free service where tutors are available to help students with their homework

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### **\*The Brave Program\***

The BRAVE program, which has been trialled and evaluated over the last 13 years, is an online self-help course that allows young people and their parents to seek support for anxiety in the comfort of their own homes.

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### **\*My Chance, My Future\***

The Brotherhood of St Laurence has launched a campaign to highlight the growing crisis in youth unemployment nationally

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# Biographical statement – Cassandra Gibson-Pope

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Cassandra has worked for the City of Marion for the past 16 years. During this time Cassandra's role has evolved from being the Coordinator of the Mitchell Park Neighbourhood Centre to Coordinator of Centre Based services, Manager of Libraries and Neighbourhood Centres to her latest role as Unit Manager Neighbourhood Centres. The role includes Line Manager of OPAL and Healthy Communities projects for the City for Marion.

Living by the philosophy of Life Long Learning, Cassandra's role of Learning Community Coordinator involves the development of the City of Marion's Learning Community Strategy and being the Coordinator of the Marion Learning Festival for the past 12 years.

During her busy career Cassandra has undertaken a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Politics and Sociology, Bachelor of Applied Science Disability Studies, Honours in Disability Studies, and a Master of Public Management along with a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.



# Biographical information- Liz Byrne

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Liz Byrne is the Unit Manager, Community Connections and Learning at the City of Marion. She is responsible for leading the development and delivery of programs and services that foster life-long learning. She is also responsible for the marketing of the Marion Library Service to the community.

Prior to joining the City of Marion, Liz has worked in public libraries for 16 years, both large and small in regional and metropolitan South Australia. This has provided a sound understanding of all aspects of public library operations and planning. She has spent time working in other business areas of local government such as procurement, contracts and even as a deputy chief executive officer in a small country town with a population 1,200. Liz also supported her husband in his small business endeavors for 12 years.

Liz is a professional member of Australian Library and Information Association and in her spare time likes to be outdoors and enjoying the activities of her two children.

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# 11 Cities designated as Lifelong Learning Cities in the Republic of Korea

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The Lifelong Learning City project in the Republic of Korea aims to establish systems at local levels that offer quality lifelong learning opportunities for all. The MOE supports Lifelong Education Institutes in 14 provinces and Lifelong Learning Centres in 60 cities in organising contextualised lifelong learning programmes.

The MOE and NILE have been working to document examples of best practices in lifelong learning, such as educational programmes that have successfully mobilised local authorities, universities and companies to work together to provide quality learning opportunities.

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# A comparison of ebooks and e lending in Australian Public Libraries 2013 v 2014

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Link to Resource:

**A comparison of ebooks and e lending in Australian Public Libraries 2013 v 2014**  
**External Links icon**

Australian Library and Information Association  
Australian Public Library Alliance

16 June 2014

This report compares an ebooks and e lending survey completed in January 2013 to the same survey completed in May 2014 and will be produced annually to show ebook and e lending trends over time.

Some of the key findings of the report include:

- Nearly all Australian public libraries now lend ebooks; up from 69% a year ago to 97% in 2014.
- On average, ebooks make up 5–6% of a public library's collection.
- In 53% of public libraries, ebooks account for less than 1% of loans, and in almost all, they account for less than 5% of loans.
- 60% of libraries use two or more ebook providers, up from 33% in 2013. The three most popular providers are Bolinda, Overdrive and Wheelers.
- Between half and two thirds of libraries are less than satisfied or not satisfied with the choice of bestsellers, books by Australians, popular authors and overall content.
- 71% of libraries have ebooks in their catalogue but less than a quarter of libraries (23%) are able to offer ebooks direct from their catalogue.
- More libraries appear to be loaning ereading devices — 23% in 2014, up from 19% in 2013.
- Skills in public libraries have remained at a similar level, with two in every five libraries saying most or all of their staff were conversant with ebooks and ereaders.

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# Alternative education and transition pathways for early school-leavers

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Link to Resource:

**Alternative education and transition pathways for early school-leavers:  
Evaluating a DECD flexible-learning program young people**

**boystown\_alternativeeducationandtransitionpathwaysforearlyschoolleavers\_2013.pdf**

Evaluating a DECD flexible-learning program young people in regional South Australia

Megan Price

BoysTown, Australia

1 September 2013

This study examined the tangible and intangible 12 month outcomes achieved by disadvantaged young people participating in an alternative learning program in regional Australia. It combined desk research, qualitative interviews and psychosocial measures to assess the program's effectiveness. The report shares these findings along-with nine key enabling factors contributing to the program's evidenced success. Learnings warrant consideration from policy-makers and others involved in the design and/or delivery of re-engagement programs for early school leaver.

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# Bookcraft session a lot of fun...and nobody got hurt

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The weekend Book Craft workshop at Glenelg Libraries went off incredibly well thanks to the expertise of library staffer, Danielle. Twelve women gamely cut into their discarded library books, at first with apprehension, then with glee, as the books (past their shelf life) become works of art in a different way.



*Danielle with some of the finished vases made from discarded books.*



# Child social exclusion and health outcomes: a study of small areas across Australia

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Link to Resource:

**Child social exclusion and health outcomes: a study of small areas across Australia**  
**External Links icon**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Commonwealth of Australia

2 June 2014

Australian children living in areas with a relatively high risk of social exclusion also experience relatively poor health outcomes, argues this bulletin.

## Summary

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the University of Canberra's National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) have collaborated to explore links between the risk of social exclusion and health outcomes in Australian children at the small-area level.

Social exclusion is a broad concept that is used to describe social disadvantage and lack of opportunity. NATSEM developed the child social exclusion (CSE) index for 0–15 year olds using data predominantly from the 2006 Census. The index aims to capture the risk of social exclusion experienced by Australian children at the small-area level (mostly Statistical Local Areas—SLAs). It is made up of five domains related to social exclusion: socioeconomic circumstances, education, connectedness, housing and health service access.

This project linked the CSE index with data on children's health outcomes in the form of potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPHs) and avoidable deaths among 0–14 year olds.

## Findings

The findings show that Australian children living in small areas with a high risk of child social exclusion have, on average, worse health outcomes than children living in other areas. This is the case in remote as well as in non-remote areas.

PPH rates were associated with the risk of child social exclusion:

- Areas with a relatively high risk of child social exclusion also had relatively high average rates of PPH.
- PPH rates were much higher in the areas that had the highest risk of child social exclusion than in all other areas.
- A high risk of child social exclusion was associated with high PPH rates for children both in remote and non-remote areas.
- Children living in Remote and Very remote areas had higher rates of PPH than would be expected based on the CSE index alone.

Areas with a relatively high risk of child social exclusion also had relatively high rates of avoidable deaths. The estimated annual rate of avoidable deaths among the 20% of children who lived in the areas with the highest risk of child social exclusion was 32 per 100,000 children. This is more than twice as high as the 15 avoidable deaths per 100,000 children that occurred among the 20% of children who lived in the areas with the lowest risk of child social exclusion.

The findings suggest that geographical modelling of disadvantage at the small-area level may be a valuable tool to help focus policy programs aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Australia's children. Characteristics of areas with unexpectedly good or poor health outcomes given their score on the CSE index can be used to identify other factors that, like remoteness, have an association with children's health outcomes that is independent of social exclusion.

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# **The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP**

## **Minister for Family and Community Services**

# **John Ajaka MLC**

## **Minister for Ageing**

## **Minister for Disability Services. MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday 26 June 2014

### **LAUNCH OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COLLECTIVE**

Family and Community Services Minister Gabrielle Upton and Minister for Disability Services John Ajaka alongside Treasurer Andrew Constance today launched the Community Investment Collective (CIC).

Minister Upton said the group is a collaboration between local businesses, not-for profit groups and governments and aims to improve the lives of disadvantaged members of the community.

“Governments do not hold all of the wisdom and resources needed to deal with the complex issues that disadvantaged people face,” Minister Upton said.

“Because communities are closest to the issues affecting them, they can sometimes be best placed to offer a solution.

“The CIC is about gathering the local community around projects, directing local time, talent and resources to help those who need it.”

Minister Ajaka said the core of the CIC is the recognition that community groups and businesses can play a crucial role when it comes to improving local communities.

“Government cannot do it alone - this is about working together, floating new ideas and encouraging new ways of thinking to tackle age old problems,” Mr Ajaka said.

“The Community Investment Collective is supported by a NSW Government social media platform that will link people and organisations with projects that support vulnerable people.

“I encourage the CIC to continue to grow and build on their excellent community collaboration and communication – working with the private sector to help those in need is a fantastic outcome for the whole community.”

For more information on the CIC please contact 8424 2582 or by email:

[Northern.SydneyCIC@fac.s.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Northern.SydneyCIC@fac.s.nsw.gov.au)

**Media:**

**Kevin Wilde (Upton) 0428 090 130 and Vanessa Rofe (Ajaka) 0419 618 081**

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# Bringing Melton together

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ALCN Member Melton City Council recently received the National Economic Development Australia Award for the category Business/Industry Development for its Building Melton Together Project (BMT). BMT is a City of Melton Community Learning Board project and is an example of how a Learning Communities approach can be applied to achieve significant employment and economic outcomes in a Local Government Area.

The City of Melton has a lack of employment opportunities, lower than average education levels, lower SES levels and high population growth combining to create significant economic and social challenges. To overcome some of these challenges it was decided to target an industry where there will be jobs for many years to come. Given that the City of Melton is one of the top five growth areas in Australia and that housing development will continue for at least the next twenty years, it was logical to target the building and construction industry.

Building Melton Together (BMT) is a local employment initiative led by Melton City Council in partnership with community and industry stakeholders. The initiative assists the building and construction industry to identify its skill and recruitment needs. It matches training, employment opportunity with an available skilled workforce. It also assists building and construction subcontractors to increase their capacity and ability to become preferred subcontractors with volume and domestic builders.

BMT connects supports and gains the collaboration of developers, builders, subcontractors, Jobs Services Australia, education and training providers, community and jobseekers.

Building Melton Together (BMT) has three phases. Phase 1 focussed on linking training to jobs in the Building Construction Industry. BMT brokered relationships between employers Jobs Service Australia, Education and Training Providers and community. By acting as an industry referral service, improving training, undertaking employability skills assessments to ensure appropriate referrals to local building and construction jobs were made. This process ensured jobs were not only gained but also sustained.

BMT Phase 2 built on the lessons of Phase 1. It targeted support for local subcontractors assisting them to gain preferred subcontractor status with volume and domestic builders. It has been demonstrated that if more local subcontractors gain jobs with local builders they will employ apprentices and salaried workers.

Phase 3 aims to provide project sustainability. It is exploring how aspects of BMT can be driven by the building and construction industry itself. The BMT model will also inform on how to best support fledgling building and construction businesses to be supported in Melton City Council's Western Business Accelerator and Centre of Excellence (BACE). Building and construction businesses are one of three categories of business planned to be supported through the BACE. The others are digital enterprises that can lever of the NBN and services businesses.

See [www.meltonconstructionjobs.com.au](http://www.meltonconstructionjobs.com.au)

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# eSmart Libraries

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eSmart Libraries is a behaviour-change system for libraries to improve cybersafety and wellbeing and deal with cyberbullying.

## **eSmart Libraries now in a third of all public libraries in Australia**

eSmart Libraries is now in one third of public libraries across the country.

eSmart Libraries is a free purpose-built system designed to equip libraries with and connect library users to the skills they need for smart, safe and responsible use of technology.

Launched in August 2012 by the former Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Julia Gillard MP, the \$8 million, multi-year partnership with the **Telstra Foundation** is delivering eSmart Libraries in collaboration with Australia's library network over the next six years to all of Australia's 1,500 public libraries.

## **eSmart Libraries stories**

[Library users safer with eSmart](#)

[Library brings together Alice Springs community](#)

[Creating an eSmart Australia](#)

[eSmart Libraries helps bridge digital divide](#)

[Reviews and case studies](#)

[eSmart Libraries factsheet](#)

**Become involved** If you would like to register your library for eSmart Libraries or would like more information, visit the website [www.esmartlibraries.org.au](http://www.esmartlibraries.org.au).

## **eSmart Libraries delivered in partnership with**



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# Free Homework Help

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Available to all students in Hume

**Helping young people with homework can be a difficult and time-consuming task. Hume Libraries facilitates the Homework Help program, a free service where tutors are available to help students with their homework**

The appeal for students to attend Homework Help sessions at Craigieburn Library lies within the supportive and friendly environment that the Homework Help team have fostered. The tutors are both approachable and knowledgeable and are available to help students with most subject areas. The flexible study spaces found within the library allows for both collaborative and independent study.

The Homework Help program began in late 2012, soon after the new Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn Library opened. “When the opportunity was presented to start a homework program for Craigieburn Library, I was excited,” said Geoff Hjorth, engineer physicist and Homework Help volunteer.

“We try to help everyone develop good study habits and get them interested in learning maths, science and physics,” said Alex Wosny, Homework Help volunteer. “Each session has about 15-20 students, with many of them being from years 11 and 12 who are completing their VCE,” he said.

Students from all local schools have been embracing the Homework Help program, and the feedback is largely positive. “I like to come here because I can ask lots of questions, get help exactly where I need, better than home. I want to further my studies and am looking at a career in medicine, biomedical or chemical engineering,” said Chamali Wadanambi, Year 11 student at Mac Robertson Girls High School.

“If you’re struggling with any subject, the tutors will help. They are very easy to get along with. They’re friendly, approachable, and they are very accepting to all – it’s not exclusive based on what school you go to, or your background. Plus, it’s free! Everyone likes free things,” added Anthony Makhoul, student at Penola Catholic College.

The Homework Help program has helped many students succeed in their studies. Presley Asekuna Tanuusa, a student at Craigieburn Secondary College, comes from a big family with five brothers and nine sisters who keep her very busy at home. “I need to look after the younger ones and can’t do any homework at home. Being the older girl I want to be a role model for my sisters and keep studying. I like to study here as I can focus in my work. I study because I want to have a career not a daily job,” she said.

Parents are also impressed with how the Homework Help program is assisting their students. “I think my son gets more done here. The one-on-one interaction between student and tutor is great and it also helps my son socially,” said Sami Sheikheldin.

### **Free tutoring sessions during school terms**

**There is no need to book, simply show up and introduce yourself to one of the tutors**

### **General tutoring**

Free tutoring available to help primary and secondary school students in most subjects including English, mathematics, science and more. Sessions are held at the Craigieburn Library on Thursdays, 4–6pm (during school terms).

### **Mathematics and science**

Free specialised mathematics and science tutoring available to help secondary school students with their homework. Classes are held at the Craigieburn Library, on Wednesdays, 4–6pm (during school terms).

### **Aiming High VCE Program**

A free homework program for high achieving VCE students in years 11 and 12. Sessions are held at the Hume Global Learning Centres – Broadmeadows and Craigieburn on Thursdays from 4–6pm during school terms. This programme is only open to students who have been selected by their school. Referrals are taken from the schools at the start of the year. Students interested in being part of the program can talk to their teacher and express their interest.

FOR MORE INFO

[humelibraries.vic.gov.au](http://humelibraries.vic.gov.au)

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# Free online program proven to help children with anxiety

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**A free, evidence-based program that has been proven to help prevent and treat anxiety in young people aged between eight and 17 is now available online.**

The BRAVE program, which has been trialled and evaluated over the last 13 years, is an online self-help course that allows young people and their parents to seek support for anxiety in the comfort of their own homes.

The program, which uses Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) techniques, includes up to 10 sessions for children or young people. Parents can also take part in a separate program to learn ways to help their children manage anxiety and participants can come back at any time for refreshers.

Parents can complete the program together with, or independently of, their child and not everyone will need to do all sessions.

The program was developed by the BRAVE team\* from Griffith University, The University of Southern Queensland and The University of Queensland, in consultation with UniQuest Pty Limited, and **USQ Researcher Dr Sonja March** said the program is easy to use.

“The program is fun, interactive and can be completed at your own pace. All that young people with anxiety need to access the treatment program is a computer and the internet,” she said. “Trials and evaluation of the BRAVE program have shown young people who use it notice a significant improvement in their anxiety, and many are able to overcome their worries.”

**beyondblue CEO Georgie Harman** said *beyondblue* is proud to have supported the BRAVE team by providing more than \$500,000 to fund the conversion of the program from a one-on-one therapist-led program to a self-directed therapy program.

“We think this is a really worthwhile investment because anxiety can make it hard for children and young people to cope with day-to-day life. If left undiagnosed and untreated, anxiety conditions can persist or worsen as children grow into adults. Many anxiety symptoms go unrecognised by adults who come to believe, for example, that panicky feelings and constant worrying are part of their personality.

“Not everyone across Australia has equal access to services, so this will be of great benefit to people living in rural and regional areas, as well families in metro areas,” Ms Harman said.

Parents should be aware that common reasons for anxiety in children or teenagers may include meeting new people, being away from home, performing in front of others, travelling on planes, getting injections or current global events. Children and

young people with anxiety between the ages of eight and 17 (and their parents) are invited to register and use the BRAVE program.

For more information, or to access the program, please visit [www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au](http://www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au) or enter via the *beyondblue* website [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au).

\* The BRAVE Team is comprised of Professor Susan Spence and Dr Caroline Donovan (Griffith University), Dr Sonja March (The University of Southern Queensland), and Professor Justin Kenardy (The University of Queensland)

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# MY CHANCE, OUR FUTURE

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## **Youth Employment Campaign**

The Brotherhood of St Laurence has launched a campaign to highlight the growing crisis in youth unemployment nationally.

Youth unemployment rates reached 12.2% nationally in February 2014 (up from 8.8% in 2008).

A key part of My Chance, Our Future is an e-newsletter, the Youth Unemployment Monitor.

The Monitor is a useful source of information and policy Analysis. It also presents the human stories of youth unemployment and the challenges young people face in a tough entry level job market.

To find out more, visit: [www.bsl.org.au/Advocacy/Youth-employment.aspx](http://www.bsl.org.au/Advocacy/Youth-employment.aspx)

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