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## **Public Library Funding An Important Community Requirement**

Dr Mike Nahan, Member for Riverton said he does not support any reduction in the funding for public libraries and he is lobbying the State Government to ensure increased funding was made available for his local libraries.

"I cannot accept further cuts to the State Government funding for library resources," said Dr Nahan.

"I am a parent of a student and I am also an avid reader of books so I fully appreciate the educational and recreational benefits of being able to access good books and other resources from our local libraries," said Dr Nahan.

"Public libraries are the hub of our communities and they provide a very important service through the preservation and distribution of information and knowledge. I am also an economist and a politician, and I fully understand the jostling for funding that goes on in the lead up to a State Budget but I do not support any reduction in the State funding for public libraries."

Dr Nahan said the former Government gave a one-off allocation of funding in 2008/09.

"The former State Government made a one-off, additional allocation of \$4.35m for library materials on top of the base funding in 2008/09, which was clearly a short-term election sweetener," said Dr Nahan.

"It was not included in the Budget for future years and that is why there was a dip in the funding this year as the top-up has now run out and the funding has reverted back to the base rate of \$7.953 million, of which \$6.5million is for local libraries."

"In the case of the City of Canning's funding allocation, that base rate reversion has resulted in a drop from \$308,637 to \$198,404 in the past year."

"I have written to the Minister for Arts and Culture Mr John Day and to the Treasurer Troy Buswell, calling on them not to cut library funding in the upcoming Budget. I have asked that they ensure there are sufficient funds made available for the ongoing purchase of new library books and materials to meet community expectations."

"I will continue to work hard on this issue to ensure that adequate public library funding is provided for this important community resource."

**Media Contact: Dr Mike Nahan 9457 1282 or 0412 911 969**  
[www.mikenahan.com.au](http://www.mikenahan.com.au)