



21 April 2010

Member for Riverton Delighted at New Library Funding

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said he was very pleased that the Minister for Culture and the Arts, John Day, had confirmed increased funding for local libraries, which would be included in the 2010-11 State Budget.

"This important ongoing library funding will ensure that our local public libraries can continue to provide essential services that meet community expectations," said Dr Nahan.

"I am particularly pleased to see that the funding will increase by more than 40 per cent to \$9.307 million in 2010-11 and that the funding will be indexed to the CPI for the following three years."

Dr Nahan said he had been alarmed to learn that the previous Labor Government had secretly taken \$4.355 million from the WA Symphony Orchestra (WASO) accommodation fund in 2008 to prop up library funding without telling WASO that it had done so.

"In taking WASO money to top up the library funding, Labor was virtually robbing Peter to pay Paul. That is totally unacceptable and I have no doubt that the community think that too," said Dr Nahan.

"Local public libraries are the hub of our community and they deserve ongoing and consistent funding. Minister Day has confirmed that he has increased the library funding for the next three years but he has also had to replace Labor's inappropriate misallocation of the WASO funds."

Dr Nahan said local public libraries provide a very important service through the preservation and distribution of information and knowledge in the form of books and other resources.

"I am very pleased to have championed this issue on behalf of the local community and to have played a part in ensuring that there are proper and appropriate library funds for this important community resource," said Dr Nahan.

Funding for library materials for local libraries and the State Library are as follows for 2010-11 and the forward estimates:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Public Library Materials	\$ 9,307,000	\$ 9,512,000	\$ 9,721,000	\$ 9,935,000
State Library Materials	\$ 1,642,000	\$ 1,678,000	\$ 1,715,000	\$ 1,753,000
Total	\$10,949,000	\$11,190,000	\$11,436,000	\$11,688,000

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