

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Suburban Development



Monday, 10 October 2022

INSPIRING MORE YOUNG VICTORIANS TO READ

The Andrews Labor Government is backing thousands of young Victorians to pick up a book this year as part of the Premiers' Reading Challenge.

Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne announced more than \$1 million in funding for public libraries across Victoria from the Labor Government's *Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund*.

Each year, the Premiers' Reading Challenge encourages children and young people across Victoria to read a set number of books, with a published list containing a range of books suited to different reading levels.

Public libraries play an important role during the Challenge, with many young readers visiting their local library to access the books included on the list.

The Government's support will help libraries to purchase the books listed, allowing them to grow their collections for young people to enjoy now and into the future.

Since the Premiers' Reading Challenge first began in 2005, it has helped teachers and parents inspire more than 3.5 million young Victorians to read more than 54 million books.

Victoria's public libraries make a real difference to individuals and communities across the state – more than two million members borrow more than 30 million books each year.

Since 2014, the Government has invested more than \$47.1 million into 120 library infrastructure projects, allowing a combined total investment with local councils of \$345.8 million.

The Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund allocations are provided to local councils, regional library corporations, My Community Library (Myli) and Vision Australia.

For more information on the Government's support for libraries including the Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund, visit localgovernment.vic.gov.au/funding-programs/public-library-funding.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne

"We're proud to be supporting more children to read, encouraging a love of reading and literacy and developing skills that will set them up for life."

"We have a strong track record of investing in libraries to ensure all Victorians no matter where they live can learn and stay connected."

Quote attributable to Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins

"We're encouraging more young Victorians to read more often by investing in programs that make it easier for students to access a wide range of books locally – helping to set students up for future success."

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