

# Media Release

**The Hon Melissa Horne MP**

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Monday, 19 February 2024

## DELIVERING BETTER LIBRARIES FOR VICTORIANS

The Allan Labor Government is supporting local libraries to deliver more programs and spaces, upgrade facilities and provide mobile library vans.

Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne has opened applications for the Labor Government's \$2.2 million *Living Libraries Infrastructure Program* to improve libraries across Victoria.

Public libraries are about much more than books. They deliver increasingly important services like cyber safety education and free internet access, supporting the community to work, study and keep in touch with loved ones. Grants between \$10,000 and \$200,000 are available in this *Living Libraries Infrastructure Program* funding round.

The new programs and facilities will support communities in Melbourne and regional Victoria, with funding available for mobile library vans to provide public library services to remote communities.

The mobile library van for Hindmarsh Shire Council – supported by the *Living Libraries Infrastructure Program* – visits kinders, daycares, schools, aged care facilities and home care clients, providing important services for Victorians who need them most.

The Government has invested more than \$47.1 million dollars over the last eight years into 120 library infrastructure projects, with a total project cost of \$345.8 million.

Applications for these grants are open until 28 March 2024. For more information on *Living Libraries Infrastructure Program* and this year's guidelines, visit [localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants](http://localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne

*"Through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, we are ensuring more Victorians all across our state can access library services."*

*"I encourage councils and regional library corporations to apply for these grants so they can deliver more programs and services to local communities."*