**Category 1 : Local Government with population over 35,000**

**Local Government: Redland City Council**

**Project Name: The Hidden Disabilities Program**

**PROJECT THEME**

**Our project addresses the theme of understanding and preparing for changes in the library profession**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project “*The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative*” encourages greater inclusivity, acceptance and understanding of staff and customers living with disabilities. While some of us experience a disability that is visible, many people may have a non-visible condition.

Disabilities can be neurological, cognitive and neurodevelopmental as well as physical, visual, auditory and include sensory and processing difficulties. They can be respiratory as well as chronic conditions including arthritis, diabetes and chronic pain. A high percentage of the Redland library customers who access our library facilities may have a hidden disability.

The programme uses the visual tools (pins, lanyards and armbands) to create awareness. Library staff are trained in this programme and wear pins green - for those wishing to voluntarily disclose a hidden disability, and white - for those voluntarily wishing to show they are trained to support the program.

The programme is a simple visual tool for staff to have extra awareness and to prompt the question `How can I help you'. The customer can then disclose, what additional support they require. Staff have also been more open to share their own hidden disabilites as a result of this initiative.

**VIDEO LINK**

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcI91iBB9G4>

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**Local Government: Noosa Shire Council**

**Project Name: The Digital Leaders Program**

**PROJECT THEME**

**The Digital Leaders program aligns with the Digital and Virtual technology - looking outside the square theme.**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
The Digital Leaders program is an inter-generational, digital-literacy program whereby high-school aged children skilled in technology, share their knowledge and skills with the wider community in a collaborative effort to bridge the digital divide.   
  
Rather than only focussing on employing external support to deliver library digital-literacy programs to ensure our community can actively participate in life tasks that require digital knowledge, this partnership program between Noosa Libraries and the Peregian Digital Hub is unique as it's been designed to:  
  
- Utilise the skills and strength of our younger generation who have the required tech skills  
- Create opportunities for skills development and employment for Peregian Digital Hub's young digital talent.  
- Provide connection between the generations which in turn helps people feel less isolated  
  
The program, now operating for seven months has been hugely successful, meeting all intended goals and objectives.

**VIDEO**



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**Local Government: City of Moreton Bay**

**Project Name:** Dementia Friendly Libraries: Magic Tables and More in MOREton Bay

**PROJECT THEME**

**Our project aligns with the theme of Advocacy.**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In a ‘Moreton Says’ survey, respondents (including 5000+ comments, from 2,370 participants) indicated that Council’s services could be improved through efforts to be more inclusive, foster representation, and respond to the needs of diverse communities. The survey also identified that people want council to support building and maintaining social connections.

Over the next 20 years, an additional 200,000 people are expected to call our City of Moreton Bay home, including significant increases projected in the number of residents aged 65 years and over. Moreton Bay’s dementia and/or a mental health condition population is 2.1% higher than the statewide percentage (Queensland Regional Profiles - 2021 data), highlighting the specific need in our region for targeted support and programs.

Connecting the local research and demographics to the State Library of Queensland Love your Library findings, we saw an opportunity to improve connections specifically with individuals experiencing Dementia, plus their families and carers, to build value, awareness, understanding and partnerships for public libraries.

We were a recipient of a 2023-24 State Library of Queensland Strategic Priority Grant regarding Dementia friendly libraries in the City of Moreton Bay, fueling this project and our efforts to foster inclusion, educate library staff, and deepen engagement with relevant community organisations and existing partnerships, including local Dementia Alliances, Neighbourhood Centres, and Carers Queensland.

**VIDEO**



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**Category 2: QPLA LGA Library of the Year, population under 35,000**

**Local Government: Paroo shire Council**

**Project Name: The Evolution of Cunnamulla Library**

**PROJECT THEME**

**Our project aligns with the theme of Advocacy.**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Who would have thought a partnership spanning 12 years with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and Cunnamulla Library, our motto of “giving back” could garner such wonderful opportunities nationwide. Due to our large indigenous population, we reached out to ILF applying for their free book supply, to get books into homes, especially homes of our First Nations people.

Of all libraries across Australia, Cunnamulla Library was chosen to receive the 500 000th book, delivered FREE by Australia Post. A nationwide media opportunity followed, put us all over FB, NITV, YouTube, ILF etc. We were ONE of THREE locations across Australia chosen to showcase in a live stream from the Opera House, on Indigenous Literacy Day.

Paroo have been chosen to have our own children’s book published. Written by our kids, all costs funded by ILF. This will happen in the library with workshops being held here with the kids and ILF later in the year.

**VIDEO**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFgeCEe8Kp0>

<https://youtu.be/ZIhh2i5NqCw>

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