

Queensland Public Library Champions Application Guidelines

State Library is seeking up to six (6) Library Champions to represent the Queensland public library network at the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) National Conference being held at Rosehill, Sydney, 11 - 14 May 2026.

The Queensland Public Library Champions should be leaders in one of the following areas of library practice including Collections Management, Early Years, Digital Inclusion, Youth Engagement, Local Studies or Small Library Services.

In addition to attending and participating in the national conference, Library Champions will be required to share their key learnings from the conference with the Queensland public library network.

Library Champions will receive travel bursaries (up to \$3,000) to support their attendance and registration will be organised by State Library.

Eligibility criteria:

Applications must be completed via SmartyGrants by 24 November 2025.

Bursary numbers are limited and will be considered against the following selection criteria:

- Nominated applicant must be a current Queensland local government public library staff member.
- Nominated applicants are required to attend the full conference program and associated events.
- Applicant councils must be currently compliant with all aspects of their Service Level Agreement including having no overdue or outstanding reporting or acquittals.
- Applicants will need to nominate an area of practice:
 - **Collections Management**
The collection management Library Champion will have demonstrated their commitment to building a diverse, locally relevant library collection which meets the needs of their community and that aligns with their organisational strategic goals. They will be working towards best practice in the area of collections management, both digital and physical, and how this aligns with community needs and interests, now and into the future.

- **Early Years**
The early years Library Champion will have a passion for working with families', and care givers to provide a strong foundation for children's development and wellbeing in their first five years. They will be able to demonstrate their experience in providing resources and programs that build children's brains and bodies through free, fun, playful experiences through their library or IKC.
- **Digital Inclusion**
The digital inclusion Library Champion will have an interest in technology and desire to bridge the digital divide. They will be able to demonstrate their commitment to building their communities' digital literacy skills and accessing digital content. They will be working towards best practice in developing and implementing programs and resources to uplift their communities' digital skills today and for the future.
- **Youth Engagement**
The youth engagement Library Champion will have enthusiasm for working with young people and a desire to understand their complex and diverse needs. They will be able to demonstrate expertise in the research, planning, and delivery (or actively partnering to deliver) youth programs that resonate with local interests / needs. They will be working towards best practice in engaging with teens and young adults within their local community.
- **Local Studies**
The local studies Library Champion will have an interest in family and / or local history. They will be able to demonstrate their commitment to contributing to the building, preserving and making accessible Queensland's rich and diverse history through local collections old or new. They will be working towards best practice in collection management, providing access and promoting the value of these unique and beloved collections in libraries and IKCs.
- **Small Libraries all-rounder (community population under 25,000)**
The all-rounder Library Champion will have a passion for improving outcomes for rural and remote communities. They will be able to demonstrate their diverse and generalist experience and skills which have been developed during their time working in smaller libraries (including Rural Libraries, Indigenous Knowledge Centres and small independent libraries). They will be working towards best practice through strong community engagement and sound library management, achieved whilst overseeing all areas of small library operations.
- Applicants will need to demonstrate their qualifications/ experience in their chosen practice area, this can include, but not limited to:
 - Formal qualifications
 - Completion of other professional development activities in key practice area
 - Work experience in key practice area within their current or previous roles

- Programs /projects developed and implemented in key practice area
 - Participation in industry networks related to key practice area
- Applicants will need to demonstrate how attendance at the conference will benefit their personal development the development of council's library service and of the broader library network.
- Library Champions will be required to share their key learnings from the conference with the Queensland public library network, through a Lunch Box Conversation, online workshop, blog post, or through a network meeting (other platforms / methods will be considered).

If more applications are received than can be supported by State Library then consideration will also be given to the following:

- Representation of a diversity of experience levels, roles and functions within libraries, qualifications, and demographic backgrounds.
- A broad geographic spread of applicants supported.

What can the funding be used for:

- Councils can use the bursary funding to support costs of travel and accommodation (up to \$3,000).
- Registration (valued at \$1,500) will be organised and paid for by State Library on behalf of councils.

What is the council responsible for:

- Councils are required to pay for the costs of their staff's time to attend the conference and any incidental costs such as meals or per diems.
- Any additional costs incurred above the bursary provided are to be covered by council as a contribution towards the professional development of their staff.

Payment of bursary:

- The travel bursary will be paid to successful councils on receipt of an invoice issued to State Library based on the estimated costs in their application.
- Invoices must be submitted to pl@slq.qld.gov.au

Application process:

- Applications must be completed by 24 November 2025 via SmartyGrants EOI form.
- Supervisor or Manager support is required to be evidenced through a Letter of Support.
- Applicant must ensure travel expenses are the most economical.

- Fuel costs are to be calculated according to the Queensland Government's Motor Vehicle Allowances Directive 20/16:
<https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/documents/directive/2016/motor-vehicle-allowances>
- Applicants will be notified of their application outcome within two weeks of the travel bursary closing date.

For the successful applicants, council will be responsible for:

- Submitting an invoice for payment of the approved bursary amount to State Library.
- Arranging the travel and accommodation, which must be booked as soon as possible after receiving confirmation by State Library of costs to be covered.

Acquittal process:

- Applicants must attend and participate in the full PD program.
- Applicants will be required to participate in a feedback evaluation for the event.
- **Library Champions will be required to share their key learnings from the conference to the Queensland public library network, through a Lunch Box Conversation, online workshop or blog post following the event.**
- If the successful applicant does not attend the event, all bursary funds must be returned to State Library.
- For more information, please contact pl@slq.qld.gov.au.