



CENTRAL NSW  
COUNCILS

**CENTROC**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Date of Release: 4 February 2011

Approved by: Cr Phyllis Miller, Chair of Centroc

---

## **Centroc fights for NSW Public Libraries**

The State Government's cost shifting practices are impacting on the adequate provision of public libraries across NSW.

According to the Chairman of Central West Libraries Committee, Cr Gavin Priestley, NSW receives the lowest percentage of total library expenditure from the state government of all states and territories in Australia. The NSW State Government's contribution to library services has diminished from 23.6% in 1980 to less than 9% in 2010-11. Over the same period, local government has increased its spending and contribute 91% to libraries operating costs.

Chair of Centroc, Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM, said "This is just another example of the state government shifting costs onto local government". Mayor Miller went on to say, "the network of public libraries across the towns of central NSW are a vital service for communities. Along with their traditional lending roles, the libraries are important community spaces providing a place for friends and interest groups to gather, access the internet and participate in a vast array of community programs".

Reduced funding from the NSW State Government is putting a strain on the expenditure for collection resources, library staffing and opening hours. "We don't want our communities to lose another service that the state government should be adequately funding", stated Cr Miller. The collective councils of the central west, Centroc support the submission endorsed by the Library Council to the Minister for the Arts.

**ENDS**

---

For media enquiries contact: Chair of Centroc, Cr Phyllis Miller 0419 600 877 or Centroc Executive Officer Ms Jennifer Bennett 0428 690 935