

LIBRARIES, FUNDING AND DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS

2871. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Culture and the Arts

I refer the Minister to funding of the Western Australian Library's Board and to the supply of books to Libraries in Western Australia and ask will the Minister advise -

- (a) for the financial years 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and the year to date how many books were purchased and distributed to public libraries in Western Australia; and
- (b) for each financial year above, what was the distribution of books to each Local Government authority for their public libraries?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

- (a) The total number of new items purchased and distributed to public libraries for the financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02 is as follows -

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
219 814	233 843	234 873

The total number of new items purchased in 2003-04 is 233,930

The total number of new items distributed in 2003-04 is 217,890

- (b) The State Library's Management System keeps records for one year only on the numbers of new items distributed to each Local Government authority.

In addition to these new items being distributed, all public libraries in Western Australia, unlike other states, participate in an exchange system whereby proportions of library stocks are turned over on a regular basis and refreshed with viable used resources recycled from other libraries in the state.