

## 2.2 INELI-OCEANIA SCHOLARSHIP – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

(JR)

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council approves Monash Public Library Service staff member Pamela McGowan to travel to Fiji as part of the conclusion of her INELI-Oceania Program 2016-18 scholarship at no additional cost to Council.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The report is to advise Council on the impending completion of the INELI-Oceania program by Monash Public Library Service (MPLS) staff member Pamela McGowan and to seek endorsement for her to travel to Fiji for the final convening 28 May-1 June 2018.

### **BACKGROUND**

The INELI-Oceania Program is based on the highly successful International Network of Library Innovators (INELI), a project of the Global Libraries initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which provides emerging library leaders with opportunities to connect with each other to explore new ideas, to experiment with new services and to learn from one another.

Council endorsed Pamela McGowan's scholarship admission to the INELI-Oceania Program 2016-17 at the 26 April 2016 Council meeting. At the time of the initial report, it was expected that the final convening would be held in Australia at a cost of \$2,000. This has now been relocated to Fiji. The additional costs associated with travel, meals and accommodation are fully subsidised by the INELI-Oceania scholarship program.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Advocacy Workshop and Libraries Summit to be convened in Fiji is designed to bring together key stakeholders, Pacific library practitioners and INELI-Oceania innovators from across the Pacific to:

- Train and equip practitioners in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Equip practitioners with advocacy skills and give them confidence to advocate for public libraries and their contribution to the SDGs; and
- Advocate for the role of public libraries and librarians in society and to inspire a vision and agreement for collaborative and sustainable development of public library services in the region.

The expected outcomes of the program are:

- A Call to Action document for public library development in the South Pacific; and
- Demonstration of the value of libraries in achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

***POLICY IMPLICATIONS***

The scholarship learnings and benefits to the community from the final convening have significant potential for application to the library's future directions and A Healthy and Resilient Monash Integrated Plan 2017-2021.

***CONSULTATION***

No consultation was required for this scholarship application.

***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Council approved the expenditure of \$2,000 when endorsing Pamela's participation in this program which has been accommodated within the existing budget. All additional costs associated with travel, meals and accommodation are fully subsidised by the INELI-Oceania scholarship program.

***RECOMMENDATION***

The report seeks Council support for Pamela McGowan attendance to the INELI-Oceania final convening and South Pacific summit. This opportunity completes Pamela's scholarship program and presents a significant, career defining opportunity for her continued development as a public library innovator and leader.