8.2 ITALIAN LANGUAGE STORY-TIME SESSIONS

Submitting Councillor: Cr Stefanie Perri

NOTICE OF MOTION

That
1) Approval be given to pilot an Italian language story-time to be held at Clayton Library fortnightly from February to June 2012.

2) A report be made to Council in May 2012 on the progress of the pilot program.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Motion is to seek the Council’s support in piloting an Italian language story-time at Clayton Library on a fortnightly basis. If the pilot is successful based on attendance and feedback, then a permanent story-time session is to be scheduled.

BACKGROUND

Currently the Monash Public Library Service presents a variety of opportunities for children to share a love of reading and to develop pre-literacy skills through library story-time sessions. Public libraries recognise that they have a key role to play in encouraging emergent literacy skills through shared book reading, language games and singing songs.

The Monash Public Library Service presents 15 story-time sessions per week for babies, toddlers and pre schoolers. The library also presents an AUSLAN story-time at Glen Waverley once per month.

In addition to story-times in English, Monash holds Chinese (Mandarin) story-times monthly at Mt Waverley Library and fortnightly at Clayton. A Greek story-time is held fortnightly at Oakleigh Library. The library service currently holds collections of books for children in both these languages.

Story-times in languages other than English, as with English language story-times, promote an interest in reading books and in promoting pre literacy. They also enhance the connection between children, parents, grandparents and carers by the sharing of stories, songs and rhymes from other cultures in the language of that culture.

Staff report that there has been interest from members of the public in holding an Italian language story-time at one of the library branches. It is therefore proposed that a pilot program of Italian story-times occur fortnightly at the Clayton branch. Clayton has a reasonably significant population of people who speak Italian at home and is the second most visited library branch in Monash. The pilot program commencing in February 2012 and finishing in June 2012 would result in...
approximately 10 story-time sessions. The success of the program would be assessed on attendance and feedback from participants.

A suitably qualified Italian speaker would need to be engaged to prepare and deliver the story-time sessions.

**FINANCIAL**

There will be additional costs associated with obtaining a suitably qualified Italian speaker and additional library staff time is also required to source materials, prepare and assist in the delivery of the story-time sessions. It is proposed that for the pilot program these costs can be borne by the current library budget. However if the program were to be permanently adopted these costs would be additional to the library operating budget. It is estimated that these costs would be around $4,000.

**CONCLUSION**

An Italian language story-time session at Clayton library would promote an interest in the stories and culture of Italy. Italian story-time sessions would also enhance language skills in Italian and develop pre literacy skills in Italian and in English. It is proposed that a pilot program of story-times be held at Clayton library on a fortnightly basis to commence in February 2012.