



Community Services

Request of Government

We are seeking

- Continued and increased investment into public libraries given the significant role they play in our community
- Funding for the Knox Historical Society Resource Centre



Background

Library Funding

Public Libraries across Victoria deliver essential services that strengthen early years development, improve school readiness, reduce loneliness, and help communities navigate an increasingly digital world.

Nearly one-third of Victorians are library members, highlighting the critical role libraries play in community life.

With 1 in 4 library users coming from households living on lower incomes, public libraries are responding to rapidly increasing demand and helping offset cost-of-living pressures by providing free access to resources, programs and safe community spaces.

However, government funding continues to decline in real terms. Grant increases have been frozen since 2020, placing increasing pressure on the sector.

As a result, Local Government is required to significantly increase its financial contribution or adjust service delivery models to meet the growing community needs – an approach that is not sustainable in the long term.

Knox Historical Society Resource Centre

Ambleside Park Homestead is a single-story farmhouse built in 1899 located in Ferntree Gully. The homestead has been occupied by Knox Historical Society (KHS) since 1977.

KHS plays an important role in documenting and preserving Knox's history. The group has been operating in temporary facilities for many years which present a number of issues. Accessibility and compliance issues are key concerns, as well as the lack of sufficient climate-controlled storage space to house the society's collection.

KHS needs storage, administration, cataloguing, research and related activities in the proposed resource centre, thereby freeing up the historic homestead for museum programming and display purposes. The ongoing need to use the homestead building for operational activities is a major impediment to the activation of Ambleside, as well as limiting the preservation and research activities of the Society.



Our proposed solution

Library Funding

Increased and sustainable State Government funding is required to meet growing demands.

This should reflect the new funding distribution formula to ensure that it allows for population growth and inflation.

Without this, libraries will face increasing pressure on service delivery, impacting their ability to provide equitable access to programs, resources and community support.

KHS Resource Centre

Site plans have been completed, and a planning permit is in place for a purpose-built resource centre in consultation with KHS and an estimated spend of \$3 million to complete the project is required.

Project contact

Judy Chalkley
Director Connected Communities
9298 8298

**SPEAKING UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY
TO OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT**

