



Join the  
REVOLUTION!

#ItsNotFineToFine

@JamesNicholson1



Image from: Ryan Wick <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ryanwick/2192098809>



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**800,000 Kids  
Teens  
Young Adults <sup>\*</sup>(1)**







# Fining patrons goes against our core values as Librarians

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*B.8.10 Library Services to the Poor (Old Number 61)*

...Therefore it is crucial that libraries recognize their role in enabling poor people to participate fully in a democratic society, by utilizing a wide variety of available resources and strategies...

*B.8.10.1 Policy Objectives (Old Number 61.1)*

The American Library Association shall implement these objectives by:

**Promoting the removal of all barriers to library and information services, particularly fees and overdue charges. (\*2)**





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We find the rise of capitalism and the “efficiency movement” during the Progressive Era (1890-1920) let to a replicating of libraries in the image and model of corporations...

Gregory, Lue & Higgins, Shana, (2018)

‘In Resistance to a Capitalist Past: Emerging Practices of Critical Librarianship’



Books + Publishing  
New Zealand book industr  
Jobs Cl

Why Ports  
fines for three years

South  
and c

EQUITY

# Library fines hit Seattle's lower-income neighborhoods hardest

In her \$213 million library proposal, Mayor Ellison is eliminating fines. Data show that lower-income neighborhoods are hit hardest.

by David Kroman / March 20, 2019

## YPRL is now fine free

July 1, 2019

Yarra Plenty Regional Library's Board has voted to remove all library fines in order to encourage more community members to borrow books without fear of financial penalty.



Are you loving your latest read? The final tantalising chapter beckoning, but you know you have to finish it. Now there's no need to worry. From the 29 December, those bringing books back late will no longer incur a fine.

0

Post a comment

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ends a

# United States

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## Cleveland

“The decision to go fine free starting July 27<sup>th</sup> [2019] is all about access. Cleveland Public Library wants to remove barriers and connect people to knowledge and ideas, not stand in their way,” (\*3)

Tana K. Peckham, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer for the CPL



## Jackson County

“Removing fees, increasing the types of cards we offer, and simplifying the application process for a new library card sends a clear message that we want it to be easy and enjoyable to use the library. We put patrons first.” (\*4)

Kari May, Library Director



# United Kingdom

## Trafford

“Trafford will become the first public library authority in the country to adopt this policy which sends a welcome message to our residents in Trafford that they will have access to a completely free library service.”

(\*5)

Trafford Council

## Blackpool

“The fines were never in place as a money-making scheme, they were designed to encourage people to return their books on time. However, we know that this can have the opposite effect. At a time when every penny counts even a small fine could be a reason for someone not to return a book.” (\*6)

Cllr Gillian Campbell



# Australia

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## Tasmania

"We continue to say libraries should be welcoming and accessible to all but how can we fine people and feel that we're accessible and welcoming?" (\*7)

Elizabeth Jack, Executive Director of Libraries Tasmania

## Sydney

"When you charge fines people feel they can't come into library or they get defensive around the fine. So from having a financial implication to not bringing the book back — 'you can't do anything and owes us a fine' — we're changing people's behavior so they're not being punished financially and it's just about bringing the book back." (\*8)

Suzanne Buljan, Manager of Libraries and Learning





# Windsor Public Library reinstates late fees

If you're late returning a library book after Nov. 15, be prepared to cough up some cash.

JULIE KOTSIS, WINDSOR STAR Updated: October 8, 2013





# Case Study: Casey Cardinia

1. To remove overdue fines for a 12-month trial period from 1 January 2018
2. Implement a 'support to comply' program that encourages responsible library use, while upholding CCL's core value of Fairness.



# Case Study: Casey Cardinia

Income	
Income from fines per year	\$110,000.00
Estimated no. of transactions (based on monthly Nov 2016)	36,000
Income per transaction	\$3.06
Cost of Administration	
Estimated time to process transaction (minutes)	2
Estimated cost per transaction	\$1.39
No. of hours processing fines	1,200
FET processing fines	0.66
No. of weeks per year processing fines (based on 2 mins per fine)	30.33
Band 4D (annual salary)	\$75,930.40
Cost of fines (annual salary)	\$50,064.00
Cost of notifications (phone, print and SMS)	\$56,100.00
Cost of debt recovery	\$9,241.60
Total direct cost for recovery of overdue fines and lost items	\$115,405.60
Gross income on overdue fines	-\$5,405.60



## Conclusion

There is direct social and economic benefit from the removal of overdue fines

CCL will save time and resources by removing overdue fines

CCL will redefine its relationship with the broader community and operate in closer alignment with its core values and the recently adopted 2017 – 21 Library Plan

## Recommendation(s)

That the Board support the removal of overdue fines for a 12-month trial period

That the Board receive a written report detailing performance of the trial against agreed measures of success at the November 2018 Board Meeting.



## **Additional Outcomes...**

1. Whilst the average length of loan increased slightly (a few days) the number of lost items dropped significantly (people were not afraid to return their items)
2. CCL saved significant staff time in the mornings, because the chute did not need backdating. This in turn meant that we were able to open their libraries earlier – a significant win for the community.

## Its not always perfect on paper...

August 2017 – March 2018	99.88% of loans returned
August 2018 – March 2019	99.65% of loans returned

### Number of borrowers blacklisted

August 2017 – March 2018	311
August 2018 – March 2019	427

- As with CCL loan time went up slightly, but in this case loans still outstanding also went up slightly
- External factors will affect stats – need a holistic approach
- Cessation of library fines will continue permanently







**1** Become  
more  
**informed**

**3** **Write to council**  
for support

Build a  
**business**  
case **2**

**4** **Advocate**



[www.itsnotfine.com](http://www.itsnotfine.com)

 Tweet

## Manifesto

Examples: Australia

### Examples: International

## Business Case Template

## Links & Resources

## Contact



# Eradicate library fines!

Follow this website and hashtag as I build my Australia wide grassroots campaign. The aims of this campaign are as follows:

1. Eradicate library fines
2. Advocate for the benefits of library fine reform

The evidence in support eradicating library fines is now so great that library services and councils should that currently charge library fines should take notice.



# Reference links

1. <https://qz.com/1158839/the-case-against-library-fines-according-to-the-head-of-the-new-york-public-library/>
2. <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual/updatedpolicymanual/section2/52libsvcsandrespon>
3. <https://www.cleveland19.com/2019/02/28/check-it-out-cleveland-public-library-is-getting-rid-overdue-fines/>
4. <https://www.kdrv.com/content/news/Libraries--507319471.html>
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-43015919>
6. <https://www.liveblackpool.info/community/local-libraries/blackpool-libraries-go-fine-free/>
7. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-25/tasmania-ditches-library-late-fees-to-encourage-readers-back/10551762>
8. <https://www.news.com.au/finance/money/costs/city-of-sydney-is-axing-fines-for-overdue-library-books-because-they-dont-work/news-story/9499de2a9a6b76be408b34177867ec4c>



# Thank you

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