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CAUL Statement on Freedom to Read

The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) is the peak body for the leaders of university libraries in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Our vision is that society is transformed through the power of research, teaching and learning. CAUL's values include openness and transparency, ethics, and inclusion. Access to information, freedom of speech, and freedom to read are central to our profession, and are essential for a thriving democracy.

CAUL is deeply concerned by the decision of some members of Cumberland City Council to ban books on same-sex parenting, and we stand with the Australian Library and Information Association and Equality Australia in calling for a reversal of this decision. The Cumberland City Council's actions fundamentally undermine the community's right to free access to information, perpetuate social inequalities, exclude already marginalised members of our communities, and contravene the [APLA-ALIA Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries](#).

We stand in solidarity with colleagues in Cumberland City Council libraries and recognise the important role that they, and other public library colleagues, play in creating inclusive library spaces, services and collections that reflect the full diversity of the communities they serve.

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