



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Amanda Rishworth MP Federal Member for Kingston

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#### **Improving access to information for people with vision impairment or disability at Hallett Cove Library**

Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston has welcomed the news that Hallett Cove Library will receive **5 new digital playback devices** thanks to the Federal Government.

Ms Rishworth said the devices will give people in the Southern Adelaide area with a vision impairment or disability better access to library materials.

Ms Rishworth said “Almost 20 per cent of Australians are unable to read standard print information, including people who are blind, have low vision or people with a physical or learning disability.

“Providing access to materials in a range of formats plays a vital role in increasing the independence and connectedness of many people in our local community here in the South.”

Ms Rishworth said a significant barrier to inclusion and participation for people with vision impairment or a learning disability is a lack of access to information and that this new equipment will enhance the public library experience for locals in the South.

Ms Rishworth said “The devices Hallett Cove Library will receive are like an audio book but they have many more options than a regular CD, designed to improve the learning and reading experience.

“I know people in our community really value their local library. This announcement of 5 playback devices will greatly improve access to the valuable public library network for people with a vision impairment or disability.”

Ms Rishworth said Hallett Cove Library was successful under the Australian Government's *Increasing Accessibility Library Initiative* which provides \$1 million for digital playback devices for people with print disability through public libraries across Australia. The initiative also includes training library staff to help users' access available resources.

Further information is available at [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au) or the Australian Library and Information Association's website, [www.alia.org.au](http://www.alia.org.au).