

**Submission Number: 354**



**Date Received: 1/5/2010**

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1 May 2010

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Education and Training  
PO Box 6021  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

**Re: Library funding – Caulfield Primary School**

I have been advised that I am able to make a late submission to the inquiry relating to Teacher Librarian/Library funding and as a parent, am extremely grateful to have this opportunity.

I chose to send my children to Caulfield Primary over other highly regarded local schools because I see many wonderful advantages in being part of this very close community. Indeed, many children thrive in these types of environments - as mine has. As a school with only 114 students though, our school is "uniquely" disadvantaged because we receive NO library funding at all - not for books, resources, NOTHING!! This is simply because we have less than 200 children. It is this discrimination that I most strongly object to. I have absolutely no teaching or library qualifications but have been appointed to the role of (volunteer) Library Coordinator at our school, strongly supported by an equally passionate group of (volunteer) parents who are determined to provide our children with the benefits that come with having access to a school library. A qualified TL is almost a pipe dream for us and yet it seems so obvious that we can have the building, books and people but what we really need is a TL to draw all these resources together and optimally utilise them.

I strongly believe that many people are not aware of the true library situation at their respective schools. School has library - child goes x times per week. They may not be aware of how the library is staffed or funded. Indeed, our library compares very favourably with those of many other schools but that is only because we, as a school community, see it as a priority. The point is, that ALL children are entitled to an excellent education without an arbitrary number of children being used to determine who is entitled to what. I have written to our local Member, Helen Shardey about this issue (a copy of which is attached). No action or funding has been forthcoming, although the letter was tabled in parliament.

Yours faithfully,

Joanne Fiorenza