



Chris Jaques

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Ref: Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools.

The Secretary of the Committee,

I am a teacher at St Paul's Primary School, Camden which has an enrolment of 660 students K-6 and 30+ staff.

I am employed full time. I am a qualified teacher librarian. I have been working in the library for 17 years. I gained my Master of Education (Teacher Librarianship) from CSU in 2003.

Up until 2008 I was full time in the library doing RFF. In 2009 RFF/PPD was changed to PE lessons. Flexible staffing required me to now have only 3 days in the library and 2 days in classrooms as Executive Release. (On these 2 days I still get to the library when I have a spare moment to oversee what is happening there)

We have:

- A beautiful new library (2009) with 20,655 resources
- Staffing – Qualified TL- 3days per week, SSO - 2 days per week job share between 3 people(Processing), SSO – 2 1/2 hours 5 days per week (Borrowing).
- Library budget cuts for the last 4 years due to school building projects.
- 23 second hand Mac laptops
- Smartboard technology.

Over the years my role has changed a great deal. Sometimes the challenges and issues feel daunting. We need to be flexible as long as we keep the welfare of the student's learning at the forefront.

As a teacher librarian I also organise/run Book Club, author/illustrator visits, guest speakers, chess club, before school and break time opening, Book Week, Book Fairs, parent helpers, Premier's Reading challenge, MS Readathon.

Are we serious about quality teaching and learning in our schools?

Students need regular access to the library and a qualified teacher librarian can assist them to search for information. Information skills need to be taught and followed up with practice and support from an experienced teacher.

A well-stocked library and staff with knowledge and expertise in literacy and information skills enhances Literacy and learning.

School libraries make a difference.

TL positions should not be traded off as part of flexible staffing. Staffing formulas need to factor in school libraries and qualified staff.

Students should be taught by suitably qualified specialist teachers.  
School libraries need continuity not part time staff.

Books will continue to exist in many formats. These need to be selected, purchased and managed.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century poses many challenges in education. Digital Technology has given students an unlimited source of information. Students need to be taught and guided how to use this information.

Government funding needs to state that schools must adequately staff and fund school library programs and services. Otherwise funding can be used for other purposes within the school.

Thank You  
Chris Jaquess