



Good Morning,

I would like to submit these brief thoughts concerning the above mentioned enquiry.

Firstly, thank you for holding the timely enquiry. I believe there is a lot of sadness in the Australian children's literature community, of which I am a long standing and passionate member. As a primary school teacher, librarian, teacher librarian, children's writer, bookseller, public librarian, parent and CBC member I am sad at the current state of school library services. This is especially evident in public school libraries.

I think it is ESSENTIAL that each school has a qualified librarian, and perhaps more than one depending on student enrolments. It is also important that the librarian has an assistant there each day to help with the many and varied tasks that need to be attended to on a daily basis.

A teacher librarian also teaches, not just manages the library, chooses books, accessions those books and also now manages most of the technology in the school, and certainly the library.

Please, please listen to what these hard working professionals are saying to you. Try to take policy and argument out of the discussions and come up with clever and creative ways to value school libraries and librarians. For the past few years they have been less respected and certainly feel less valued because of the enormous daily workload they are given. They teach library lessons, relieve class teachers from face to face work, manage the library and precious resources.

And the saddest of all things - they are rarely now given the opportunity to simply read a book to the lucky children in their care. The joy of stories and the love of reading is very difficult to pass on to these children, and that alone is a large enough aim and outcome for teacher librarians to achieve.

With thanks, we all look forward to hearing the results of your enquiry, soon.

Lindy Batchelor