



Braitling Primary School  
PO Box 1669  
Alice Springs  
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Inquiry Secretary  
Parliament of Australia  
House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Education & Training  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **To whom it may concern**

Braitling Primary School Council wishes to present the following points for consideration of the Inquiry Into School Libraries and Teacher Librarians in Australian Schools:

- Current staffing entitlements do not incorporate a Teacher Librarian. This school has chosen to create this position from within existing resources as we believe in the real importance of this role to students, teachers and the wider community.
- Our Teacher Librarian is highly knowledgeable about existing resources and possesses the skill to order appropriate and current targeted resources. The Teacher Librarian is instrumental in purchasing and tracking targeted resources including digital resources.
- The Teacher Librarian inspires children's love of literature at both a whole class and individual level promoting reading as a part of each individual's life long learning journey.
- The Teacher Librarian supports all teachers in a number of valuable ways. Firstly, by offering specific reading and comprehension tests with follow up at all class levels. Secondly, by working with teachers to supply appropriate resources for specific units of work. Thirdly, by supporting teachers' professional development with appropriate resources e.g. First Steps Reading & Writing program.
- The Teacher Librarian works as part of a team where the Library Teaching Assistant develops new skills and expertise in supporting the Teacher Librarian and all students. Both jobs are interdependent focussing on improved outcomes for all students.
- With a growing enrolment of Indigenous students (currently 45%) we see our Library as a valued and valuable centre to support, celebrate and nurture Indigenous culture.
- For a number of students, Braitling Library is the only access they have to seeing and experiencing how a 'regular library' operates. For a significant number of children, Braitling Library is the only exposure they have to books.
- The Teacher Librarian provides explicit teaching of skills including research, different texts and the explicit language associated with libraries.
- The Teacher Librarians' professional association is instrumental in promoting a love of reading and sharing in both urban and remote schools e.g. the

biannual CLIC (Children's Literature in the Centre) festival being held in Alice Springs this August.

- Our Library is seen as a 'safe haven' by a range of students and this is part of our whole school Wellbeing Policy. The provision of 'time out with your favourite book' is a proven destressor. The Teacher Librarian's detailed knowledge of individual students is an important factor of this strategy.
- The Teacher Librarian's extensive and detailed knowledge of the library collection is, in the opinion of the School Council, invaluable.

For and on behalf of Braitling Primary School Council

Darren Johnson (Chairperson)

16<sup>th</sup> April 2010