



My interest in this

inquiry specific concerns the second term of reference, namely:

- the future potential of school libraries and librarians to contribute to improved educational and community outcomes, especially literacy;

My experience and sincere belief is that, without professional teacher librarians managing the resourcing of and education around school libraries, the literacy agenda in Australian schools will be hopelessly compromised. The combination of expertise in literacy learning and knowledge of all the resources available to students and teachers, digitally and otherwise, is a powerful one for the potential of improved academic outcomes for students. H/she can assist teachers to integrate their developing professional learning around explicit literacy teaching with the demands that rigorous assessment places on students. The capacity of a teacher librarian to work with classroom teachers on specific research and assessment tasks in this way really cannot be done by anyone else. So, it is often the teacher librarian who can provide the vital link between skill and content, without which we have 'literacy about nothing'.

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