



Electronic Resources Australia (ERA) – Response to Questions on Notice – 21 May 2010

At the public hearing for the *Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools* on 13 May, Roxanne Missingham and Warwick Cathro were asked to provide the following additional information:

1. Breakdown of school libraries that are ERA members by govt/ non govt and rural/ non rural

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
Govt – Urban*	3	73	1	30	26	1	38	61	233
Govt – Rural*	0	17	0	2	4	0	9	6	38
Non Govt – Urban*	6	104	3	56	54	6	118	36	383
Non Govt – Rural*	0	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	8
Total	9	199	4	88	85	7	167	103	662
Total Govt	3	90	1	32	30	1	47	67	271
Total Non Govt	6	109	3	56	55	6	120	36	391
Total	9	199	4	88	85	7	167	103	662
Total Urban*	9	177	4	86	80	7	156	97	616
Total Rural*	0	22	0	2	5	0	11	6	46
Total	9	199	4	88	85	7	167	103	662

*Urban/Rural – the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) regard a population of 1,000+ as urban and a population of less than 1,000 as rural, and this definition was used to compile this table using data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

The majority of schools (653) subscribe to an encyclopaedia and a further 12 schools subscribe to a mix of resources from the Humanities & Social Sciences, General Reference and Science products.

2. Pricing information based on different sizes of schools

Pricing is generally based on the Equivalent Full Time Student Units (EFTSU), however there is some pricing through ERA that is based on a flat rate regardless of EFTSU. There are also a number of vendors that have a minimum fee that applies in their EFTSU pricing.

Pricing for a school with 100 students typically can range from \$100-200 to \$900 per product, whereas pricing for a school with 1,000 students can range from \$700-800 to \$2,800 per product. There are some more expensive products that are priced irrespective of EFTSU which can range between \$1,600 to over \$3,000 per product.

3. Product descriptions of a sample of the 25 products offered through ERA

Below are product descriptions of the e-resources mentioned in the ERA submission. Further information on each of the 25 e-resources offered through ERA can be found at http://era.nla.gov.au/product_list/.

World Book Web

World Book Web delivers World Book's entire collection of online products designed to make reference resources and research tools

Standard	accessible at all learning levels, plus thousands of additional articles, learning resources, and research tools.
MacquarieNET	includes a range of Macquarie dictionaries and thesauruses including student and specialist dictionaries, interactive maps <i>Explore Australia</i> and <i>Interactive Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia</i> , encyclopedias and reference works of Australian history, art, events, people and places, daily ABC news feeds and archived news from 2003, over half a million images from major museums, galleries and image libraries around Australia, and interactive Learning Trails and web quests with safe and reliable website links.
Science Resource Center	is an in-depth, curriculum-oriented science database that provides a one-stop resource for all science related research needs. It reflects curriculum trends and focuses on key concepts taught in school classrooms, including: Earth Science, History of Science, Life Science, Physical Science, Science and Technology, Science as Inquiry and Space Science.
Literature Resource Center	is a resource rich in critical, biographical and contextual materials that supports interdisciplinary approaches, information literacy, and the development of critical thinking skills. Includes biographical entries on more than 135,000 authors, full-text articles, critical essays and reviews from over 390 scholarly journals and literary magazines, selected full-text critical essays and reviews, overviews of frequently studied works, full-text poems, short stories and plays, interviews and Merriam-Webster's® <i>Encyclopedia of Literature</i> , featuring 10,000 definitions of literary terms.
Global Issues in Context	this resource uses a wealth of resources to explain the historical and contemporary conditions necessary to understand global issues, conflicts and events. It supports research in virtually every corner of the library and in a wide variety of subject areas, including sociology, current events, civics, politics, science, economics, cultural/religious studies, women's studies, human rights, English composition and many more.
Opposing Viewpoints	is a full-text resource covering today's hottest social issues, from Terrorism to Endangered Species, Stem Cell Research to Gun Control. It brings together all the information that's needed to fully understand an issue: pro and con viewpoint articles, reference articles that provide context, full-text magazines, academic journals, and newspapers, primary source documents, government and organizational statistics, multimedia, including images and podcasts, links to hand-selected web sites, and more.
Good Reading	a magazine that features reviews of literary books, award-winning books, but also of crime, romance, sci-fi, biography: books ordinary people like to read. A great source of book reviews, book news, author profiles, reading group notes – everything about books.

4. Information on whether the schools not subscribing through ERA have access to e-resources

We attempted to get data on the number of schools that currently have access to e-resources through a number of sources however this data is not available. It would be a significant exercise to gather this data therefore we can not provide this to you at this stage.