



To inquire into and report on the role, adequacy and resourcing of school libraries and teacher librarians in Australia's public and private schools.

*the impact of recent policies and investments on school libraries and their activities;*

It has been terrific to see the Federal Government's BER and the production of new school library buildings. This is wonderful. It is producing a HOUSE but it is the contents of the house that make it a HOME and not the building alone. To this end there needs to be a drastic increase in funding to populate these libraries with TEACHER LIBRARIANS who know and love books and also to fill these libraries with books of BOTH FICTION and NON-FICTION. This will make the education revolution a reality - not the testing, not the buildings but the books and the staffing.

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

Libraries and teacher librarians are the HUB of the school. When a classroom teacher needs to find a resource to support educational activities in their classrooms it is often the teacher librarian they seek,  
*can you find a book that supports .....,*  
*is there a website that shows my students .....,*

As a visiting author to many schools I see great libraries with dedicated staff but with shelves of books that I read at school. today's students need books that will encourage them to read and develop the love of reading. That might happen with some of the (now) classics that I read at school but is very much more likely to happen with books that kids find relevant to them. And today in many cases these books are missing from the bookshelves. The authors and illustrators are creating those books the students want to read. The publishers are publishing the books that students want to read but the schools are not able to stock these books because the budget has been drastically cut or dispersed into other other technologies. Kids love reading. They need BOOKS to read.

And there is one absolute way to increase literacy levels - put a wide-range of books into the hands of the students and the person who does this is the teacher librarian who is more than likely also the most wide-read member of staff in the school. These teacher librarians don't just put any book in the hands of the student. the give the student the book that suits that particular child's needs. Teacher librarian guides the reading interests of ALL the students in the school. Classroom teachers work hand in hand with school teacher librarians. this is why it is essential that the librarians is a trained teacher as well.

*the factors influencing recruitment and development of school librarians;*

A school librarian needs to be a teacher as well, not a school aide, not an administrative staff member, not a parent or community member, but a teacher who

understands education and who understands the different learning styles and abilities of children. In addition, in many cases, where a child's teacher may change over the years, the teacher librarian is still there.

Who was one of the people who inspired my love of reading - my librarian at school who kept feeding me books that I wanted to read. And who inspired me further to love books - my lecturer at college who walked onto stage and recited a tale - yes we need students inspired at tertiary level too.

*the role of different levels of government and local communities and other institutions in partnering with and supporting school librarians*

All levels of government need to be involved in the development of wonderful school libraries. Most states and territories OWN a reading challenge - back it up with support for the Teacher Librarians. Local communities will often use the library as a central meeting place within the school - they need to be in partnership too.

*the impact and potential of digital technologies to enhance and support the roles of school libraries and librarians*

The digital age is fantastic. Digital technologies are here and they are powerful but a teacher librarian is still needed

to evaluate the vast array of material that is out there,

to sort through the material,

to find what is relevant to their schools and their student's needs.

With the development of reading devices such as Apple's iPad which will soon make in-roads into our schools, teacher librarians are essential. Apps are being created for the digital books but these still need the skills and knowledge of the teacher librarian to be educational resourced within the school community.

Students are easily able to navigate the digital technologies but students need a person to guide them and show them how to evaluate and navigate through the enormous amount of material that is out there. students need the teacher librarian.

Thank you for reading my submission.

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