



Dear Ms Gillard,

The emphasis on school libraries in the current funding from the federal government shows that school libraries are valued and make a positive contribution to student's learning. School libraries are the centre of learning management and resourcing for whole school curriculum development. The Teacher Librarian has the overall knowledge and vision for whole school learning. Libraries are going from making a change to "Change Makers" adapting to digital technology that is the vital learning tools of students learning journey today. To achieve this adequate staffing is a major priority as information management requires skilled management by teacher librarians.

There is a need to consider the ongoing training needed at a tertiary level to ensure trained Teacher Librarians are available to fill the roles in schools of the future. BCE has offered ongoing support of the scholarship for teachers studying to attain further qualifications to equip them to manage school libraries/resource centres. This needs to continue to ensure that there are adequate numbers of trained staff.

Library technicians are sometimes being employed as a cheaper alternative to teacher librarians. Without the curriculum background and knowledge, this stop gap cost saving measure will lead to the library being less valued by staff and students as the relevance of the collection and the ability of the staff to adequately and effectively support the school will be compromised.

There is also a need to ensure that school Principals are aware of the intricacies of the role of the teacher librarian and understand the need to employ specialised professionals who can facilitate the maximum use of the library for all members of the school community. Support of the role at the administrative level is critical to the ongoing success of the school library and the way it is used in the school.

Funding for staffing of the library is an issue with the future management. In times past, this funding was directly linked to the size of the school however now it is at the discretion of the Principal and that can sometimes impact on the hours of the TL being compromised if a more pressing staffing situation arises.

The Resource Centre is the centre for management and should be run by a trained professional who develops a targeted and up to date collection of print and digital resources to support teaching and learning. This can be achieved by a Teacher Librarian as they have the knowledge of the classroom as well as the collection. They also attend Professional Development Days to continue to enhance their knowledge of the curriculum and availability of resources for the implementation of the curriculum which will facilitate student learning.

The Teacher librarian has knowledge of reading material to promote and encourage reading activities in the whole school. They offer reading programs to help student's literacy development through a variety of medium suitable to the students needs

The teacher Librarian also networks with staff to develop community interest to aid in students learning, through Premiers Reading Challenges, historical communities, local members and other schools in the community etc. This gives children the opportunities to become active participants in their own communities.

The changing environment in education increases the role of the Teacher Librarian as the information literacy educator in the schools. As educators it is our responsibility to equip our students with skills and understanding they will need to become life long learners in their community.

Yours Faithfully  
Jann Scott

*Jann Scott*  
*Teacher Librarian*