

# Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education  
References Committee

## **Inquiry into the progress and future direction of life-long learning**

---

**Submission no:** 12

**Received:** 16/06/2004

**Submitter:** Mr Gary Ellem  
Secretary

**Organisation:** Country Public Libraries Association of NSW  
North East Zone

**Address:** PO Box 751  
CASINO NSW 2470

**Phone:** 02 6662 6160

**Fax:** 02 6662 2001

**Email:** [rucrl@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rucrl@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

---

PO Box 751  
CASINO NSW 2470

Graham Place  
CASINO NSW 2470



Phone: (02) 6662 6160

Fax: (02) 6662 2001

[rucrl@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rucrl@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

2 June 2004

The Secretary,  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations  
And Education References Committee  
Suite SG.52, Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir,

On behalf of the North East Zone of the Country Public Libraries Association, NSW, I write to draw your attention to the vital role public libraries play in providing equity of access to Australians of all ages to on-going opportunities for Life-Long Learning.

The North East Zone of the Country Public Libraries Association represents the following Local Government Councils in Northern New South Wales:

Armidale Dumaresq	Narrabri
Glen Innes	Parry
Great Lakes	Kyogle.
Severn Shire	Nundle
Greater Taree	Quirind
Guyra	Uralla
Hastings	Walcha
Inverell	Bellingen
Kempsey	Clarence Valley
Tenterfield	Nambucca
Tamworth	Lismore
Barraba	Ballina
Bingara	Byron
Gunnedah	Tweed
Manilla	Richmond Valley
Murrundi	Coffs Harbour

The North East Zone comprises of 14 Library services with a total of 67 libraries and 3

welcoming and trusted resource centres freely accessible to all members of their communities.  
The services these libraries provide include:



of the University of the Third Age.

2. Access to computers and the Internet, and to on-line information resources.
3. Access to safe and reliable study areas.
4. Access to experienced information professionals.

This vital infrastructure requires financial support from the Commonwealth Government if it is to maintain its role as an informal provider of education.

The North East Zone of the Country Public Libraries Association, NSW therefore requests that the Committee of Enquiry: 1) Recognises the vital role that public libraries throughout Australia play in supporting Life Long Learning, and 2) Supports the provision of adequate Commonwealth Government funding, at the minimum level of \$1 per capita, to public libraries Australia wide to enable them to maintain their role as education providers.

Yours sincerely



Gary Ellem

Secretary

North East Zone, Country Public Libraries Association