

Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education
References Committee

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

Submission no: 13

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Submitter: Mr Gary Ellem
Secretary

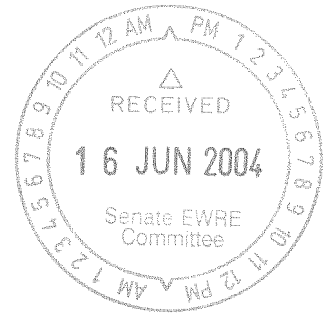
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16 June 2004

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

Dear Sir

On behalf of the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library I wish to inform you of the important role that public libraries play in Life-Long Learning.

The Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library provides a fantastic service to approximately 30,000 people in the Richmond Valley and Kyogle Council areas. The Regional Library consists of 3 Branch Libraries, a mobile library and a small library service point. The Library presently has 46% of the community as registered members.

The library provides opportunities for Life-Long Learning by:

1. Free membership and access to print material for all ages.
2. Comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.
3. Free public access to high speed Internet services.
4. Free word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia and other IT services.
5. Experienced and friendly professional staff.
6. Access to Inter-Library services with other public and academic libraries, and the National Library.

All this is provided with limited funding, staffing and resources.

The Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library requests that the Committee of Enquiry recognise the crucial role public libraries play in supporting Life Long Learning.

Yours sincerely

Gary Ellem
Regional Library Manager