



The Secretary of the Committee
Inquiry into school libraries and Australian Schools

I would like to draw the following points to the attention of the Inquiry Committee:

Students learn to become happy, independent and efficient lifelong learners with the critical skills and knowledge to find information and use it effectively when they have been helped by skilled teachers. An enthusiastic and well-trained teacher librarian works cooperatively with classroom teachers to help students become literate. Students need access to libraries and teacher librarians to become literate. These days literacy is multi-faceted – not just reading, writing and mathematics. Technology is used everyday of their lives. Teacher librarians have been trained in all areas of the curriculum and are at the forefront of using technology. They know when to use the best resource - a book or a DVD or a website – and encourage students to be critical.

The research shows that schools that have good libraries and services with trained teacher librarians and library staff succeed better in helping students become literate. <http://www.chs.ecu.edu.au/portals/ASLRP/links-schoollib.php>

I began working as a classroom teacher in 1969 and became a teacher librarian in 1978. I have worked in government and private, co-ed and single sex schools at secondary and primary level in Queensland, Germany and Canada. I saw the effects on the results of my Senior Ancient History students in 1969 after I was given one hundred dollars to spend on literary texts. I saw what happened to the English results when library reading periods where the teacher librarians introduced new literary works and classics, were cancelled in an all boys school. They were reinstated two years later because of the decline in the boy's reading and writing abilities. I and my students have benefited in my classroom teaching working with a trained teacher librarian. I am now working one day a week in a primary school of eighty-one students so that these students and teachers have access to library services. All students deserve access to quality services and programs. A shortage of trained teacher librarians needs to be urgently addressed.

I hope you consider this submission.

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