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Submission to the Committee to examine school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools

School libraries and teacher librarians are most important in the education of our students.

School communities need a qualified teacher librarian in every school. A teacher librarian is a teacher and a librarian.

They support curriculum within the school

The teacher librarian should be on all faculty committees so that the selection of resources for the library is based on the curriculum she also selects resources in consultation with faculty heads.

Another major concern is that government funding to improve school libraries has been wonderful but there has been no funding to staff these libraries with a teacher librarian in my experience over the past year there are many libraries that have a very poor collection as there is no teacher librarian on staff.

Digital revolution has funded much needed IT, but too often to the detriment of the remainder of school library resources.

A teacher librarian also brings with her a great love of literature and reading she is able to direct students to appropriate books to read and resources within the collection relevant to their studies. She is also able to make sure that the resources are current, relevant and appropriate to the learning and teaching in the school.

As life-long learners, students need to be information literate. Teacher librarians specialize in teaching information literacy.

What can be done?

Collect information on school library staffing and funding

Develop school library standards

Increase teacher librarian training