

Submission Number: 71

Date Received: 12/4/2010



Submission to the inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Kew High School Parents Association: Q Network (Q Network) recognises the importance of the role of school librarians and the importance of the physical space of the school library.

The library provides:

- A great place to hang out at lunch – plenty of people go there to read, play chess, research, study, and do homework
- A managed collection of books, available to all students
- Information resources
- A point of access to laptops
- Extra classroom space

The school librarian:

- Is a trusted adult in the school who has an 'independent' relationship with each student (i.e. not seen as actively involved in assessment)
- Provides instruction and guidance in information management and navigation, including developing students' skill in assessing the quality of information resources
- Develops basic research skills in students and provides a professional international research capacity to the school community, extending the knowledge base of students and staff
- Supports and promotes literacy
- Fosters an ongoing love of literature
- Development of a story-telling culture, including an appreciation of history, diversity and celebration

Q Network strongly supports the ongoing provision of library-dedicated resourcing to schools to ensure all Australian students have access to quality information resources and to foster a culture of storytelling.

We recommend the ongoing development of information literacy skills in Australian students to enhance their web interactions, leading to a more intelligently informed community.

The recent investment in the Kew High School library's physical space is a significant indicator of the ongoing commitment to library services for Kew High School students. Q Network also recommends that

future Government initiatives focus on developing digital technologies to enhance the role of school libraries and librarians. This may take the form of an investment in hardware and software, but should also include investment in professional development. Q Network also recommends that the professional networks of school and other librarians be resourced adequately, recognising the role of these networks in developing a highly-functioning knowledge community.

Kind regards,

Nola Tudball

President, Q Network

Kew High School
1393 Burke Road
East Kew VIC 3102 AUSTRALIA