

Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools



Submitted by
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The following submission focuses on factors influencing recruitment and development of school librarians.

I have been a Teacher Librarian in Tasmanian government rural and city schools from kindergarten to grade 10 for the last 30 years.

Many studies have proven that a well resourced and appropriately staffed school library is critical if we are to improve educational outcomes for our students. My own school library is a good example. Please refer to our submission to the Inquiry on the current situation at Ogilvie High School, Tasmania.

I have watched the fortunes of the profession wax and wane depending on the decisions of various governments and the lack of money allocated for school libraries and appropriate staff over many years.

I believe that the following things need to occur for school libraries to perform their vital, educational role in an efficient, effective manner:

- Provision of a suitable University course for Teacher Librarians in all capital cities
- Provision of some scholarships to assist teachers to complete these courses at University
- Guarantee of a job for teachers who complete their University Teacher Librarian course
- Provision of incentives for Teacher Librarians to work in rural areas
- Provision of financial assistance for ongoing professional development delivered via The Australian School Library Association in all states.
- Every school should have a library
- The library should be housed in an appropriate building or room

- Every school should have a qualified Teacher Librarian, for example:
Schools with less than 250 students for 3 days a week.
Schools with more than 250 students for 5 days a week.
Schools with 800 or more students should have 1.5 Teacher Librarians
- Every Teacher Librarian should be supported by a qualified library technician, for example:
Schools with less than 250 pupils for 3 days a week.
Schools with more than 250 students for 5 days a week.
Schools with more than 800 students should have 1.5 Library Technicians
- Every school library should have a set budget dependent on the number of students, for example:
Schools with less than 250 students - \$12,000
Schools with more than 250 students - \$20,000
Schools with more than 800 students - \$30,000
- Every school library should have adequate ICT to support its programs