



7.4.10

The Secretary of the Committee  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Training  
PO Box 6021 Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to make a submission to the *Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools*.

I support the continuation of the teacher-librarian position in schools and do not support the concept of school-based decision making which would allow schools to use library staffing allocation for some other purpose.

Libraries are important centres in schools both as sources of information and as repositories of good literature. Without a teacher-librarian, our students will probably not learn the skills of selecting and using information appropriately and may not be directed to quality literature to help stimulate a life-long love of reading.

Classroom teachers do not have the time nor expertise to help their students use the library appropriately. This wonderful resource would be underused and there would be an almost certain drop in number of books being borrowed and the amount of reading going on in the school community.

A teacher-librarian can quickly find age-appropriate material which will broaden the interests of a child and whet their appetite for new topics and authors. Young children love to take home a book they have chosen at school. Parents enjoy the special time reading to their children knowing that the book is appropriate for the age and interests of their child.

Research skills, whether using a book or a computer, need to be taught to students and it is part of the skills of a teacher-librarian to do so. Just because students have access to computers does not mean they will be able to research in a manner that is not plagiarism.

Even though we are entering the age of the computer, it does not necessarily follow that school libraries are redundant. The book itself will not become redundant and nor will the experience of snuggling up with your child to read a book at bedtime. A life-long love of reading is begun in the home and fostered in the school library by a teacher-librarian.

Yours faithfully,

Rosemary Lathouris

Teacher-librarian Wentworth Falls Public School NSW