



To The Secretary of the Committee,

I am writing to you as part of the enquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian school.

I have been in the role of Teacher Librarian for a little over a year. I was really excited to get this job because that I could combine my passion for books and information with my passion for teaching. While this is true to an extent, the day to day reality of the job means that I am doing two jobs in one and can only do each job half as well as I would like to.

In my school, the TL's role is an RFF role. This means that I take the classes for an hour while their classroom teachers are on release. While this is not encouraged, it is allowed and goes on in many schools. I find that this means that my role as specialised teacher is not being taken advantage of in regards to team teaching. What I do occurs more in isolation and while classroom teachers are busy doing other things which I don't think has a great impact on developing literacy or information skills.

Another problem, and probably the biggest for me, is that of time. I have a teaching load which is almost four days per week with a little over a day used for the buying, accessioning and developing the collection. This is not enough for me to develop the library into what I want it to be.

I think that for my library to run the way I would like it to, the use of library as RFF should be discontinued and the teaching load should be reduced of the admin support should be increased. At the moment, while we all enjoy our work, we spend most of our time trying to keep our head above water and this does not make for quality school libraries.

Thank you for your interest.

Regards,

Barbara Kirszman  
Teacher Librarian