

House Standing Committee on Education and Training

**To: the Committee Secretariat**

**Re: Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools**

A longer submission could enumerate support for each of the following points, but this is a personal and qualitative response to the Inquiry. Teacher librarians do a valuable job in their own right and greatly enhance the ability of other teaching staff to provide quality educational opportunities for students.

I am a teacher in a public secondary school. I cannot state strongly enough my support for, and reliance upon, teacher librarians. They perform an essential role supporting teachers across all disciplines and especially English. They provide specialist research support and skills training for students, and invaluable advice and preparatory support for other teaching staff.

In addition, they provide direct assistance and role models to students as an adjunct to the classroom teacher, often with the benefit of not being constrained by some of the behavioural issues that may influence relationships between students and classroom teachers.

In short, libraries are essential learning hubs within a school and teacher librarians are an essential ingredient to effective libraries. For improved outcomes, particularly for literacy, it is vital that we continue to support teacher librarians in schools, preferably with increased funding to maximise both numbers of teacher-librarians and their availability for non-timetabled hours per school week.

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