



THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

The Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools

1. The time allowed for consultation is too short given the other major issues that organizations like the AATE currently need to focus on, in particular the National Curriculum and National Professional Standards.
2. *the impact of recent policies and investments on school libraries and their activities*  
An effective English department in a secondary school assumes a quality school library. Recent policies and investments have seen increased spending on digital technology and less on traditional resources, including the human resource of teacher librarians.
3. *the future potential of school libraries and librarians to contribute to improved educational and community outcomes, especially literacy*  
All schools in the country require properly housed and adequately stocked libraries staffed by sufficiently trained teacher-librarians to contribute to the improved educations and community outcomes and in particular those with regard to literacy.
4. *the factors influencing recruitment and development of school librarians*  
In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the concept of adequately stocked libraries necessarily involves access to digital resources as well as books. School librarians need to manage digital resources as well as those we are more used to.
5. *the role of different levels of government and local communities and other institutions in partnering with and supporting school librarians*  
Sharing resources with the local community makes good sense, but during the school day students need priority access to an accessible and safe resource centre.
6. *the impact and potential of digital technologies to enhance and support the roles of school libraries and librarians*  
Digital technologies have much to offer school libraries and librarians however the school librarian's role is to support students to access information from a range of sources and be an expert in using digital resources and not tinkering with hardware and repairing networks.