

Attention: Mr Barry O'Farrell MP
Parliament House,
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone (02) 9230 2270
Fax (02) 9221 8208

30th August, 2007

Dear Mr O'Farrell,

Thank you for your letter of 6th August, 2007 (copy on following page).

Myself, and similarly concerned colleagues amongst the state's 2000-plus Teacher Librarians in NSW government schools, are greatly heartened by your undertaking to address the issues previously listed as part of your policy development process.

However, I'd like to ask why wait another three years? Why not use this opportunity to demonstrate to the parents of NSW **760,000** students currently enrolled in the public education system that the Liberal Party is committed to the people of NSW, even whilst currently being "the opposition party"? What better way to begin laying the foundations of future campaigns than to be a clear and rational voice amongst the babble of the background noise? Voters do remember such events.

I have attached herewith the response I have received from the Department of Education and Training, "on behalf of the Minister". I have also attached a copy of my reply to the Minister's response. You may note that the response that I have received merely restates my concerns, and refers to the very same documents that have supported and promoted the situation that gave rise to those concerns.

In my original correspondence to the Minister, I requested an independent survey to delineate the extent of the problem. I was referred to the 'historical precedent' for the inequities.

I requested a review of the policies and practices that allowed Principals' Discretionary Powers to exist without any requirement for accountability or mechanism for appeal. I have been told that the principals "strongly support" the current situation.

I requested the resumption of independently assessed funding. I was told that it was a local decision, with global school funding again based on "historical data" – in a time when resources need updating at a much higher refresh rate than ever before, and are available only at a much higher cost than that at the time the "historical data" was collected.

I requested an enquiry into the recognition of the role of Teacher Librarians. The response indicated that such recognition would be available if myself and my colleagues abandoned our chosen profession.

Mr O'Farrell, may I ask if you and your party would be prepared to ask questions in open forum relating to this documentation?

Amanda Credaro [Private Address supplied on faxed copy]