

Attention: Mr Barry O'Farrell MP
NSW Liberal and Opposition Leader
Fax: 9221 8208

Total= 3 pages

20th October, 2007

Re: NSW Government School Libraries and Inequities in Student Opportunities

Dear Mr O'Farrell,

Many thanks for your letter of 8th October 2007 (copy attached), and in particular your continuing interest and support in relation to the issues.

I note especially your invitation to contact you if I am "unhappy with the response" from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

I have attached here a copy of the letter dated 9th October from Trish Kelly, DET General Manager Human Resources on behalf of the Minister for Education and Training. The apparent "resolution" is a referral to the DET's Industrial Relations Directorate "to inform any future discussions on this matter".

Also attached is my response to Ms Kelly, copied to the Minister and yourself here, that intends to emphasise that the DET Industrial Relations Directorate is not the appropriate unit to address the issues.

I am also concerned that Ms Kelly's letter indicates that the Department has "recently met with the NSW Teachers Federation to discuss Teacher Librarian conditions".

As I stated in my letter to Ms Kelly, the issues of concern are not "industrial" in nature, but professional issues relating to the Department of Education and Training's mandate to provide equality in opportunities for maximising educational outcomes for the 760,000 students enrolled in Public Education in NSW.

Please note that these issues have been brought to the attention of every Minister for Education and Training for the last 10 years. I could give you the references to those earlier discussions, meetings and correspondence, given enough time. Your own research staff would undoubtedly be able to complete that task much more effectively than I could, but I am happy to provide you with any information that may be of use.

I look forward to your advice and support in bringing these issues to the forefront of attention at the earliest possible opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Credaro
[Private address supplied in faxed copy]
20th October 2007