

FACIMILE TRANSMISSION

Attention	Ms Trish Kelly, General Manager, DET Human Resources Fax: (02) 9561 8955
Copy to	Mr John Della Bosca, Minister for Education and Training Fax: (02) 9228 4392
Date	19 th December 2007
DET Reference	PER 07/6167
From	Amanda Credaro Email: acredaro@optusnet.com.au
Subject	Inequities of opportunities for educational outcomes for 760,000 students enrolled in public education

Dear Ms Kelly,

I thank you for the further information you have provided in your letter of 6th December 2007 (copy attached) in which you discuss “issues related to teacher-librarians”. I note also that you are responding on behalf of the Minister in these communications.

It is with particular concern that I note your information that the issues that I have raised have been referred to the Industrial Relations Directorate as they are considered “issues which may impact on people’s employment conditions”.

Unfortunately, I am not reassured regarding the process you have indicated whereby any changes in working conditions are discussed. The decisions that principals are routinely making – without any requirement for accountability, nor consideration of the impact of their decisions on educational outcomes – are already “impacting on people’s employment conditions”, without the input of the Industrial Relations Directorate.

Teacher Librarians are engaged in fundraising to make up for the shortfall in school library funding, in addition to attempting to maintain their professional core duties. The restoration of tied funding would address that issue.

Teacher Librarians are increasingly required to complete the clerical tasks that were previously undertaken by School Administration Officers. It is evident that the decision-making practices of many principals are not able to be based on their knowledge of analyzing need. The publication of guidelines would assist principals in making those decisions.

Teacher Librarians are continually subject to a principal’s individual interpretation of DET policies and procedures. Again, the wide-ranging “principals’ discretionary powers” are without a requirement for justification. Again, there is no right to appeal. An expedient examination and revision of those policies would address that concern.

Ms Kelly, given that you have already referred these issues “to inform future discussion”, may I assume that the Department is ‘comfortable’ with the broad range of opportunities for educational outcomes that currently exist for the 760,000 students enrolled in public education? May I ask if there is any time frame for those “future discussions”?

With Greatest Respect,