

Attention: Ms Trish Kelly,
General Manager, Human Resources,
NSW Department of Education and Training
Fax: 9561 8955

DET Reference: **RML07/4028**
A56178

CC: Mr John Della Bosca,
Minister for Education and Training
Fax: 9228 4392

CC: Mr Barry O'Farrell
Shadow Minister for Education
Fax: 9221 8208

Dear Ms Kelly,

Thank you for your letters of October 9th 2007 and 11th September 2007, both written on behalf of the Minister, concerning inequities in educational opportunities for students enrolled in NSW Public Education.

Can you confirm that you have referred all four of the issues listed below, which I first raised with the current Minister on 23rd June 2007, to the Department's Industrial Relations Directorate (IRD)?

1. Restoration of Tied Funding: It would be greatly appreciated if you could also confirm that the Department's IRD is the appropriate unit to ensure the currency and relevance of school library collections.

2. Issuing of Guidelines: Similarly, can you confirm that guidance for principals for the allocation of support staffing in libraries also within the mandate of the IRD?

3. Revision of DET policies and procedures: In relation to the management and administration of school libraries, in as much as ensuring an adequate amount of time is available to provide appropriate services and resourcing to meet the needs of the students, can you confirm that this is also within the mandate of the IRD?

4. In the matter of the status of Teacher Librarians, and the educational outcomes that could be achieved through a meaningful recognition of their work and contribution to Public Education, this should not be considered as an "industrial issue". It is a professional matter. It does not relate to "working conditions", but to the Department's own Quality Teaching documentation.

The first three of the above issues clearly result from the Department's granting of unfettered discretionary powers to principals. These issues did not exist prior to 'devolution of decision making' and thus abrogation of responsibility by the DET.

Tied funding, issuing of guidelines, and revision of outdated and irrelevant policies cannot rationally be considered 'industrial issues'. The Department no longer requires principals neither to justify their decisions, nor to be accountable for the demonstrable negative impact those decisions have on student outcomes.

The Department, without any additional cost, could easily resolve the first three of the above-listed four issues. Could you provide any information as to why the 'resolution' consists only of my "information and comments have been provided to the Industrial relations Directorate to inform any future discussions of this matter"?

Yours Sincerely
Amanda Credaro
20th October 2007