

From: "Dona the Librarian" <librarian@vic.chariot.net.au>
To: "OZ-TL" <oztl_net@listserv.csu.edu.au>
Subject: [OZTL_NET] Advocacy
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I recently attended a union meeting, which spoke of the union contacting The Federal Government and opposition concerning education. I stated that in the 70's there was a push to build and stock libraries and train librarians so funding was given to support this. I, for one, was trained under this scheme. As the library can be the hub of the school, I asked if the union could mention school libraries in their correspondence to the above parties as nothing has been done in this area since the 70's.

Their response? They couldn't do that. If they did, other sectors, such as science, English, etc, would say they were the most important area and needed consideration. A principal spoke up and said that it was up to the individual school to decide where funding should go, not the federal government. If they decide they need a classroom teacher, or more computers with their funds, they should be able to use the funds there. He mentioned that in one school, two retired TL were hired as SSO's, (library managers) which meant less money was spent on pay. That was their choice and they shouldn't be required to hire a TL.

The science department was recently given a huge grant. Where did it come from? How did they get it? Are there grants out there for libraries? If the parties can speak out about the need for funding in maths and literacy, why can't there something be done for libraries?

After the meeting, I had support from other teachers, recognizing the importance of TL, but principals have their own agenda, so what can we do?

I sent the email from OZ-TL concerning sites for Science Week and the Antarctic to the head of my science department. I also asked if I could do anything to help him for Science Week. He was very appreciative. **THAT'S WHAT WE DO!!!** Can't the union and the powers that be see that?????

Sigh!

Dona J. Hartwich
Senior Librarian
Horsham College
Horsham, VIC, Australia
gt:librarian@vic.chariot.net.au
<http://www.horsham-college.vic.edu.au/default.aspx>
