

**5. Do you support a policy for a proportion of the school global budget to be designated for the school library, in order to guarantee a minimum funding base?**

All NSW government schools are provided with annual global funding allocations from which they are expected to meet the cost of school operations. These allocations are based on historical figures and formula driven calculations using available staffing and student numbers.

Significant benefits of the global funding system include the provision of greater flexibility in the utilisation of funds and increased autonomy in decision making at the school level. **Each school principal in conjunction with the school finance committee determines how available funds are applied to meet the school's educational priorities and curriculum requirements, including the purchase of library resources.**

The Schools Catalogue Information Service gives teacher-librarians the opportunity to use quality records to build their library catalogues and provides consistency of access to information for schools. New schools opening from 2003 also receive an additional allocation for new library books - \$25,000 for primary schools and \$40,000 for high schools.

Schools are also provided with substantial resources in the form of staffing, physical facilities and technological infrastructure. Funding is also provided for targeted programs in areas such as technology, literacy and numeracy, vocational education and services that address equity considerations.

Given the capacity for schools to make local decisions, there is considered to be no need to set a minimum funding base for school libraries.

**6. Do you support the restoration of an adequately staffed school library consultancy, to supplement the excellent services of SCIS and Scan?**

The Department of Education and Training is committed to supporting school libraries and teacher librarians. To ensure this a state-wide school library consultancy service is provided through the School Libraries and Information Literacy Unit of the Curriculum K-12 Directorate.

With teacher-librarians now well established in the teaching profession, ongoing support is provided through workshops, conference presentations, by email and, online. The web site is regularly updated in response to inquiries from teacher-librarians either through consultancy, email or at workshops. The website includes support the resource reviews database, teaching ideas, the raps and book raps program, frequently asked questions including for SCIS and *OASIS Library*.

The quarterly journal, *Scan*, produced by the Unit, enhances available professional support.