

----- Original Message -----

From: [L. P.](#)

To: acredaro@optusnet.com.au

Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2007 10:29 AM

Subject: letter to slav

I just sent this off to SLAV to see what kind of response I get.

Leonie

[Permission to publish was sought and given after receipt]

To the committee of SLAV,

There has been some discussion on OZTL in recent times regarding the need to more actively promote our profession to our education departments. Mostly the discussion has focussed on the NSW position, but it prompted me to investigate our Victorian education website, to discover that the term "teacher librarian" only occurs once on the site that I am able to locate, and that is in reference to Stephanie Alexander's previous experience before her culinary career. As far as I am able to discern, our profession is not recognised on the department website.

As a teacher librarian, I find this situation disheartening, to say the least. As a parent with four children aged one to six, I find it appalling that I cannot send my kids to a local state primary school that has a qualified library professional on staff. The responses I have received from the schools' executive demonstrate it does not seem a situation of great concern.

Are you able to tell me if this is an issue that SLAV is currently pursuing? Your mission statement tells me you are "articulating the role of the school library as a partner in the learning and teaching process". Is the Victorian education department a focus for this aim?

Principals who do not understand or value the role of a TL is a common theme amongst TL discussions. If adequately staffed and funded state school libraries are to exist, it is time to ask for libraries to be specifically funded by the education department, so that they are not at the mercy of a principal's whim.

I would be interested to know if this issue is currently on your agenda, and if not, is it a course of action you feel is appropriate for SLAV to undertake?

Yours sincerely,

Leonie Paatsch