

Amanda

From: "Amanda Credaro" <acredaro@optusnet.com.au>
To: <paul.gibson@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 22 July 2007 2:58 PM
Subject: Concern over lack of progress in addressing DET School Library Issues - an update

Attention: Mr Paul Gibson, MP
Member for Blacktown
107-109 Main Street,
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

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Email paul.gibson@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Re: Concern over lack of progress in addressing DET School Library Issues

Dear Paul,

I am greatly concerned that I have not had any further response from you for some weeks, nor have I received any acknowledgement of my further communication to you on July 9th 2007. In that last-mentioned communication, I referred you to the Department of Education and Training's Corporate Plan, and emphasised the lack of equity that exists for students at different DET schools - and the impact on their academic achievement.

I do recall your statement during our phone call that you were unaware of the existence of the previously mentioned school library issues, despite your close association with school librarians for a long period of time. On further reflection, it would appear that those Teacher Librarians of your acquaintance are lucky enough to be amongst that minority currently at the 'high end' of the support spectrum.

However, I believe that it will be of interest to you to know that not only are these same issues of concern throughout the state of NSW, but also nationally and internationally.

Our "American Cousins" have been successful in addressing some of these issues. US Congress has recently passed bipartisan-supported national legislation for at least the funding and staffing of their school libraries. I hope you will take 5 minutes from your busy schedule to read the press statement at <http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/june2007/skillsactpr.htm> on the introduction of the Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries (or SKILLs) Act.

Perhaps if you have an additional 5 minutes, you could bring this development to the attention of both the Premier and the current Minister of Education and Training?

Once again, on behalf of the **740,000** students enrolled in the Public Education System (and their voting parents), the **60,000**-odd teachers who provide quality educational opportunities for those students, and the **2,000**-plus Teacher Librarians who support teaching and learning by those teachers and for the students, I thank you in advance for your earliest possible attention to these matters.

Yours sincerely,
Amanda Credaro
[Contact details previously supplied]