



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
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## Submission Cover Sheet

### Inquiry into ACT Libraries

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
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I am a regular library user accessing Belconnen, Kippax & Dickson Libraries. As I am a pensioner living on my own the library is my shield against isolation & depression. I meet up with others in a similar situation to my self & value the opportunity the library provides for friendship & communication. Over the long years I have used the library I have also established really good friendships with the Library staff & even getting to meet some of their family members. This has provided me with much joy & sometimes they are the only people I have opportunity to speak to during the day. However , now that the library has so many staff changes on such a regular basis this level of friendship is no longer possible & it has been a really long time since I have seen my friends. My major point of internet acces is at the library as I don't have my own computer & neither can I afford my own internet access. However, the library internet connection is quite slow & I have experienced other difficulties such as not being able to listen to webinars etc because the speakers don't work. So I would hope that there would be better maintenance of library equipment. I also access resources to assist with a kids programme that I am involved with on a voluntary basis. As well there is the sheer joy of reading that the library provides. However, I also have to limit my use of the library as there is a huge parking problem where the Belconnen library (my closest library ) is concerned. To park for any length of time near the Belconnen library is very expensive when you have to live frugally on a pension. Whereas I would love to visit the library everyday during the week I am prevented from doing so by the fact tht the parking is unaffordable to those on a low income. I find it very hard to believe that the government would be so short-sighted as to provide one very small & limited cul de sac with only two, one hour free parking spaces. These two parking spaces have to serve the shop front, the library , the centrelink office & some other businesses. How can this be regarded as adequate provision for the whole of the Belconnen community & when is it going to be rectified ? I have had to cope with this adversity for a very long period of time & now it is much more difficult as I am no longer able to walk long distances. I use the Kippax library when I need to be in that vicinity. I also used to visit the Dickson library regularly on Friday night because I didn't have to pay to park at that time & it provided an extended time to use the library but that is also now not possible

I do value the library. I value and appreciate having access to these facilities without which I would be lost and greatly disadvantaged. I value honour & appreciate the staff who are always helpful,friendly & very competent . However, I do believe that the library as a community facility & social hub can be improved upon & I do hope that the issues I have raised will be taken seriously so that those experiencing difficulty aren't disadvantaged.  
Coralie chandler