



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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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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ACT Libraries Inquiry

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Public libraries in Canberra play a vital role to the people who live here.

I have used Canberra public libraries throughout my life.

As a student, I used the Kingston and Griffith Libraries to assist with schoolwork, and also to borrow books for reading.

When the Kingston and Griffith libraries closed, I started using the new Kingston library to borrow books, CDs, DVDs and audio books. Over the years I have borrowed thousands of resources for myself, my ageing mother and my 2 kids.

The librarians were extremely helpful in recommending children's books when I was struggling to get my son to read. He is now a book lover, with exceptional reading and comprehension skills.

When my children were very young, we used to visit the library weekly for reading and craft sessions. The kids loved them, and gained a love of books and libraries.

I now also use e-resources such as online music, magazines, journals and books and audio books.

I had a serious illness a few years ago, and during treatment I was not able to read. Being able to borrow audio books (non-digital and digital) from the library made my treatment much more bearable.

Over the past few years, I've also started using Woden Library. I visit regularly to read magazines and newspapers that I can't afford to buy.

My mother is very frail, and I regularly borrow books for her to read. This gives her a quality of life that she would not have if it wasn't for the public library.

I'm a regular user and strong supporter of Canberra's public libraries.

Government support for Canberra's public libraries demonstrates a commitment to provide free information to ALL Canberrans, and ensures that everyone in society has access to information. This is important to all citizens, but particularly important to people with limited financial resources.

The government should continue to support public libraries for both non-digital and digital services. Trained librarians play a vital role in providing quality services to library users and should be supported.

Improvements to current services include:

- More school holidays programs for children
- More copies of popular books, particularly those reviewed in the Canberra Times
- More audio books, particularly new popular fiction and non-fiction