



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Chair), Miss Candice Burch MLA (Deputy Chair)

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into ACT Libraries

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Graham Freeman

Submission to the inquiry on the ACT Libraries

I only rarely borrow books from the library but I have many times used the computers for their access to family history research, and I teach a conversational English class every Thursday morning at Gungahlin Library. In the past, I have also taught an English class for refugees and asylum seekers in association with Red Cross in the Civic Library.

I have always found the staff to be polite, friendly and helpful.

The facilities for the English class at Gungahlin are very good. The rooms are provided by the Library without any charge because of the educational benefit. With the large migrant community in Gungahlin, I regularly have very good attendance, even in bad weather. I have not had less than 20 in a class any day this year. Many of the people who attend have come to Australia because an adult child has come here to study and then married and settled here. Others are here with a husband who is a postgraduate student at a university. All of them are lonely and get a lot of satisfaction from meeting people in a similar situation as well as improving their English at the same time. I hope that the provision of rooms for English teaching will continue under the same conditions as at present because of the enormous benefit to our community and the goodwill that these classes generate.

I greatly value the access to the family history websites that the libraries enable. Some of them are very expensive if I were to use them at home, and my use of them is only sporadic.