



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, Mr James Milligan MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into ACT Libraries

Submission Number: 045

Date Authorised for Publication: 26 September 2018

Submission to the inquiry into ACT public library services – September 2018

The current library services are excellent. The injection of funds into the resource budget was fabulous and resulted in all sorts of wonderful things being bought for the community.

Our libraries do a great job. I particularly value the new items lists and the service which delivers them to the branch of your choice.

Personally, I mostly borrow books in hard copy. If they were available in kindle format I'd be really happy to use that too. (I think the South Australian public libraries offer this).

I am also very grateful that the library nearest me (Woden) is open late on Monday nights and on weekends.

The libraries are wonderful as libraries. As such, they do a great job.

While I can see that some buildings might be able to generate some money by letting out rooms, I'd be really sad to see this happen at the expense of housing collections onsite. I also think that it would be a mistake to combine the libraries with other government outreach or social services as inevitably this leads to a diminution of the focus on library services.

I would also urge that any community spaces to be developed within the libraries be developed with an eye to controlling the noise. There are very few quiet, indoor public spaces in our cities. And there are plenty of people who like to spend time in our libraries because they value this environment.

Change is inevitable over time, but it's better if it is organic and done with an awareness of the value of what we currently have. New and different is not always better.

Please let our libraries stay libraries and continue to provide the wonderful things that they traditionally have – access to knowledge and a place to absorb it.

Julie Sienkowski

██████████

██████████

██████████