



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

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September 8, 2018

Committee Secretary Brianna McGill
Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services
ACT Parliament
e. LACommitteeETCS@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Ms McGill,

RE: Inquiry into ACT Libraries

I would like to submit the following for the consideration of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services. My submission relates to the inquiry terms of reference part (5) The extent to which ACT Libraries are accessible to the community, including: (a) Opening hours.

A few years ago, I was out of the workforce for a while, and during that time I was a very active and happy ACT library user. After I re-joined the workforce I was still able to use the services of the Belconnen library occasionally as it was very close to my work place and I could often pop in during my lunch break.

A couple of years ago I switched jobs. My new work place is in the northern part of the city. Since then I have visited the library very rarely. The nearest library to my workplace is at Civic Square, which is simply too far for day time visits.

I live reasonably close to the Gungahlin Library in Palmerston. But I can hardly ever use the library services as they are never open in weekday evenings when it would be most convenient to visit. I believe that offering library services on weekdays only during the business hours is a big waste of resources, as this arrangement benefits only a minor part of the population not in full-time employment. I am sure that the libraries would be much better utilised by a larger part of the population if they were open in the weekday evenings, preferably every day but at least a couple of times each week.

Yours faithfully

Jouni Juntunen