



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

Inquiry into ACT Libraries

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Enquiry Into ACT Libraries

I refer to your enquiry into ACT libraries. I wish to make the following submission.

I believe ACT libraries currently provide a wonderful service to the ACT community. They are, and should be, available to people of all ages and backgrounds. They provide a welcoming physical space without judgement. People can spend as much or as little time as required, with facilities such as computers, desks, comfortable chairs and toilet facilities.

I feel there needs to be library branches across Canberra and within easy access to all community areas. At present this appears to be the case, although with the increasing spread of the city there may be a need in the future for additional libraries. When I visit an ACT library I inevitably see a wide variety of people from the very young to the elderly and from diverse backgrounds. I see tutoring, JP services, conversational English groups, people on laptops, reading and children's activities. The staff are friendly and helpful. It is a comfortable and inviting space.

It can be easy for some people to experience loneliness and social isolation and a library is a wonderful and non-threatening place for people to interact with others. As such I would like to see libraries offer more group activities. Currently they do offer a variety of free classes, especially for young people. I feel it would be good to provide rooms for community groups, perhaps for craft activities and meetups.

ACT libraries provide a wonderful resources, both online and physical. They have a very good range of books, CDs, DVDs and reference and educational material. In today's move towards sustainability people can still use and enjoy these materials without the costs of having to purchase them. Their online availability is excellent, with a very good and easy to use website. There is so much information. I especially like being able to search for an item and request it to be sent to my local library.

Libraries have come a long way since I was young. They are no longer a "quiet" place where talking and noise was frowned upon. They are alive and ever changing. Surely a better educated and inclusive society is only beneficial to Canberra, both now and in the future.

