



## AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION (SA BRANCH)

### STAFFING OF SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRES POLICY

- 1 That in order to achieve the aim of improving learning outcomes for students through the development of resource-based teaching and learning in all schools, AEU supports the following personnel mix for school library resource centres:
  - 1.1 Teacher-Librarians who have a dual teaching and school librarianship qualification and whose main focus is teaching and learning and the coordination of the library and information service;
  - 1.2 School Services Officers with Library Technician qualifications who have areas of responsibility in relation to the physical running and maintenance of the library resources and audio visual equipment;
  - 1.3 School Services Officers with or without experience who may carry out daily routine tasks under the supervision of the Teacher-Librarian or Library Technician.
2. The AEU recommends the appointment of qualified Teacher-Librarians to fulfil the Staffing Allocation Document entitlement as the teaching component of the personnel mix in school library resource centres.

Where a teacher without librarianship qualifications or a teacher with verifiable skills is appointed to a Teacher-Librarian vacancy, this must be:

- agreed with the AEU; and
- the appointee must be provided with time and relevant T&D to enable the teacher to effectively carry out the role.

### **AEU Statement on the Role of Teacher-Librarians**

*[adapted from Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and Australian School Library Association (ASLA) Policy statement]*

A qualified Teacher-Librarian can be defined as a person who holds recognised teaching qualifications and qualifications in librarianship, defined as eligibility for professional membership for the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)<sup>1</sup>. This dual qualification is valuable because curriculum knowledge and pedagogy are combined with library and information management knowledge and skills. The Teacher-Librarian plays a critical role in the development of information literate citizens who are lifelong learners.



## 2.

The valuable role of the Teacher-Librarian focuses on:

**Learners and learning** – assisting individuals and class groups to seek, critically evaluate, synthesize and present information; developing strategies to foster a love of reading and literature for leisure.

**Teachers and teaching** – collaboratively planning and teaching units of work and providing Professional Development activities that encourage the integration of Information Communication Technologies and the development of information literacy skills.

**Resourcing the curriculum** – selecting and managing resources and providing information services to support the teacher and learning programmes of their school community.

**Facilitating access to information** – setting up information/knowledge management systems and helping staff and students use a range of resources and information.

**Developing the physical environment** – ensuring that the library resource centre is welcoming, user-friendly, multi-functional and a focal point for student learning.

Teacher-Librarians support and implement the vision of their school communities through advocating and building effective library and information services and programmes that contribute to the development of lifelong learners.

<sup>1</sup>*Learning for the future* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.p.60

Endorsed by Branch Council – March 2004