

28 February 2024

Secretariat, Expert Panel
Inquiry into literacy and numeracy in ACT public schools
literacynumeracyinquiry@act.gov.au

Dear Expert Panel,

Inquiry into literacy and numeracy in ACT public schools

The Australian Coalition for School Libraries (ACSL) provides a united and professional voice to advocate for Australian school libraries. The members of ACSL are the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Queensland School Library Association (QSLA); School Library Association of New South Wales (SLANSW); School Library Association of South Australia (SLASA); School Library Association of Victoria (SLAV); Western Australian School Library Association (WASLA); and the Australian School Library Association (ASLA).

ACSL is writing to the Expert Panel to endorse the submission from Emily Squires, Rebecca Cameron and Sally Allen and its recommendations:

1. As a matter of equity, a target that every ACT public school student has access to a well-resourced school library run by qualified staff.
2. That the Education Directorate develop a central register on the provision, resourcing and staffing of school libraries to provide a source of data to track impact on literacy and numeracy outcomes.
3. Expansion of the current teacher librarian initiatives (scholarship program and roll-out of centrally funded positions), supplemented by opportunities for library-specific training for educational support staff.

We would be happy to answer any questions from the committee, questions can be directed to education@alia.org.au.

