

## Submission to Quality Initial Teacher Education Review

**Responsibility:** Department of Education, Skills and Employment

**Date:** 18 July, 2021

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This submission will address:

Part B. Preparing ITE students to be effective teachers

5. The role of teachers and school leaders in supporting the next generation of teachers

Focus of this submission:

The role of school libraries and qualified teacher librarians in mentoring and participating in collaborative networks with teachers and school leaders to instruct, inform and support pre-service and newly graduated teachers.

As quoted in the review: *A nationwide study into public and teachers' perceptions of the teaching profession found that a majority of the teachers surveyed did not find their current workload manageable (Heffernan 2019).*

### Comments:

We are at a time in history where the abundance of information available in society has creating the need for skills that are not clearly evident in teacher education.

- 2020 research by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) reveals schools with a qualified teacher librarian are more likely to have improved student literacy outcomes. [ACER](#)
- When the distinction between truth and fiction is often difficult to discern, the active promotion of the role of school libraries and teacher librarians in ITE courses would be of advantage to pre-service and newly graduated teachers.
- Teacher librarians are information experts with the knowledge and skills to locate quality teaching and learning resources; to instruct teachers in the tools and processes required to facilitate information use and, to effectively use their time in lesson preparation. Time is a valuable asset and teachers suitably supported by a quality library service have time to spend with family instead of working into the night on lesson preparation, reducing burnout.
- Workloads for all parties could be better managed through heightened awareness and professional support of library services. Successful students require quality learning materials. Information skills development is an important aspect of the learning process that can be taken for granted.
- This is a circular argument in that school libraries must be funded and staffed by suitably qualified professionals in order to provide this service. We reap what we sow and the

devolution of school libraries and teacher librarians is ultimately detrimental to teacher wellbeing, resilience and workload.

This submission has been purposely limited to the role of teacher librarians and school library professionals in supporting teachers in information literacy skills development and efficient information seeking practices. It does not attempt to address the role school libraries also play in:

- Reading programs
- Student learning programs
- Media and information literacy
- Wellbeing
- Learning resources provision and management, and
- numerous other activities.

The evidence is available - effective school libraries have a positive impact on student achievement.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission.



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