

COALITION ADVOCATES FOR QUALITY SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Advocacy for libraries is a must and **CATHERINE RYAN** looks at some of the ways that the needs of school libraries are being promoted.



Much has been said in the past few years about what should be done to advocate for school libraries. The playing field is uneven between sectors, states and individual schools. One of the moves to bring state and national library groups together is the School Library Coalition. The group is made up of representatives from ALIA and other school library associations, both at a national and state level. The first meeting was held at ALIA House in Canberra in 2015 and the coalition has met on a regular basis over the past three years.

The School Library Coalition aims to work collaboratively to advance the cause of school libraries to the benefit of students, teachers and librarians through lobbying with a consistent message through library and media networks. One of the first initiatives of this group was the [FAIR Great School Libraries](#) campaign which began in 2015 drawing attention to the fabulous things that happen in school libraries throughout Australia. School libraries were nominated for meeting key criteria in servicing their students and staff and principals were lauded for their efforts to support quality library programs and staff.

School libraries both large and small are often considered a supplementary service within a school. Be assured that in this age learning to identify 'fake news' and developing a love of reading for pleasure are vital services which need to be provided to all students. Stay tuned to hear more of the great work being done to ensure that these services are valued within schools and school systems around the country. You can find out more about the new advocacy campaign ran by the School Library Coalition, Students Need School Libraries, on the [campaign's website](#). *

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