**No. 285**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Chandler to the Minister for education, in relation to the portfolio areas within the Department of education.

**School Libraries, Staffing**

Please provide a list of all government schools in the Northern Territory with current details of their particular library staffing arrangements:

1. For each school how many of the following categories of staff are employed –
2. Dual qualified teacher librarians (teachers with a library qualification)
3. Teachers-in-charge of libraries (teachers without a library qualification)
4. Librarians (qualified teachers without teacher training)
5. Library officers (unqualified teachers)
6. Volunteers
7. No one staffing the library
8. For each of these schools, please identify according to:
9. Primary, secondary or both
10. Their regional status (whether provincial, remote or very remote)
11. Whether or not they have received BER funding for the construction of a library

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**ANSWER**

1. Schools are allocated staff according to a formula that is based on the number of students enrolled and attending the school as well as particular needs of the school. Deployment of staff is a matter for the school to determine within certain guidelines (eg. no classroom having more than 27 students).

Schools are not allocated librarian or teacher librarian positions as such but may choose to assign staff to work full or part-time in the library. These decisions are at the discretion of the school principal and are made in consultation with the school council. These arrangements change on a regular basis depending on the priorities of the school.

Based on a survey of schools conducted in November 2011 most large schools in urban and remote areas of the NT have a dedicated librarian position. This includes schools in towns such as Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy and remote communities such Maningrida and Galiwin’ku.

 Most small schools which are primarily located in remote areas do not have dedicated librarian positions.

The survey returned a figure of 78 full time equivalent librarian positions in schools across the Northern Territory. Of these 13 are dual qualified teacher / librarians.

It should be noted that with increasing usage of ICT to access information, libraries and hard copy books are being used much less often in schools. This is especially so in senior years where every student will have access to a laptop computer on a one to one basis as part of the Australian Government’s Digital Education Revolution initiative.

1. 1.See attached spreadsheet

2.See attached spreadsheet

3. see attached spreadsheet