Podcast transcript

Library Services helps rebuild school library after the floods

What happened to the library when your school flooded?

Bonnie Olyslagers, Patrick Estate State School: When the flood came in 2011, the water came from that direction (points); it hit that wall and filled the room up to three bays high. When we turned up at the school we had to bash the door down, and the mud, water and books just flowed out.

We did not have a library for the whole of 2011. Come 2012, we realised that it was getting ridiculous. But we came in here and we did not know where to start. It was so much work and we were not qualified.

How did Library Services help your school?
Library Services helped us in an amazing way. They, first of all, recommended that we go to a recruitment agency and recruit two librarians. They gave us an idea of how long it would take those two librarians to go through and re-catalogue, and take old ones off and put new ones on, and organise the covering. They also recommended that we change our computer system.

Our Library is now up and functioning, in just 10 weeks, thanks to Library Services.

How has the community helped rebuild the library?
The community has been an amazing support as well. Most of these books have been covered by parents from our school and community members who have volunteered. So we didn’t have to pay for any of the books to be covered.

How important is a library in a small school?
In a small school, the Library is amazing for resources. Children at a small school don’t get to go to big-town libraries. Last year, in particular, because we didn’t have a library, we really noticed the lack of a library. It’s lovely to have it up and running for the kids to use. It’s great that we have had Library Services come and show us the way to get it up to the standard that it is now – it’s bigger and better.