



**Let's Read Community Story
Bayside Libraries**

Organisation	Bayside Libraries
Launch	The official launch of the SESLHD project was at Bayside Library in Rockdale. The Director of Planning, Population Health and Equity and the Bayside Council General Manager attended the event. Families received a Let's Read Library bag with a book and tip sheet.
Publications – FB, newsletters, newspaper, website	<p>The event was covered by the local newspaper The Leader, posted on the FB page of the Bayside Council. https://www.theleader.com.au/story/4903254/program-encourages-parents-to-read-tochildren/</p> 
Highlights	The Let's Read program is a wonderful tool to offer additional resources to library customers, in particular those attending Bayside's early literacy programs and special events. The program launch and our subsequent "Let's Read Week" activities were well received by participants and attracted interested families well after the events, as they inquired about the resources on offer.

Challenges	<p>The in-depth evaluation tool (VET) provided did not work well in any of the settings. Other in-depth evaluations as recommended in the Let's Read training are also of limited use in a library setting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our programs are public programs and as such we do not develop a staff-parent rapport with participants like childcare centres. In the library setting, this could be run as a research project by SESLHD. 2. Participants in our programs are already attending because they are generally aware of the importance of reading to their children. <p>However, the resources (various types of tip sheets) are wonderful value-adding resources to our service and are used for events or in conversation with customers.</p>
-------------------	--

Case studies	<p>Monday 18 September – Friday 22 September 2017“Let’s Read Week”</p> <p>Parents/Caregivers and their children received tip sheets and a free book as part of our specially-themed early literacy programs: Baby Rhymetime, Toddlertime and Storytime across seven locations, as well as our external Chinese Grandparents Group at Wolli Creek. The event was promoted via email, Instagram, in the libraries via TV screens, handouts and posters. A Facebook post promoting the event had five likes, four shares and one comment (a customer asking a friend to join her for this event).</p>
---------------------	---

Case studies	<p>19 September and 10 October 2017 - Wolli Creek Chinese Grandparents program.</p> <p>In the last session of Term 3, participants of this program were presented with books and age-appropriate reading tip sheets in Chinese. The group was also asked to participate in a Visual Evaluation Tool (VET) display activity to record the literacy activities that the participants engaged in with their children. The VET activity was repeated in the first session of Term 4 to ascertain changes in reading activities in which participants engaged with. <i>CHALLENGES:</i> It became very clear that the language barrier and the concept of the VET did not allow for the capture of the reading engagement records. This resulted in changing the approach to gathering this kind of information.</p>
---------------------	---



Monday 18 September – Friday 22 September 2017“Let’s Read Week”

Parents/caregivers and their children received tip sheets and a free book as part of our specially-themed early literacy programs: Baby Rhymetime, Toddlertime and Storytime across seven locations, as well as our external Chinese Grandparents Group at Wollie Creek. The event was promoted via email, Instagram, in the libraries via TV screens, handouts and posters. A Facebook post promoting the event had five likes, four shares and one comment (a customer asking a friend to join her for this event).

18 September and 9 October: Toddler time at Sans Souci

In the last session of Term 3, participants of this program were presented with books and age-appropriate reading tip sheets. Most of the participants were of English speaking background, and, this being a library program, very engaged in early literacy activities. The group was also asked to participate in a VET display activity, which was used to record the literacy activities that the participants engaged in with their children. The VET activity was repeated in the first session of Term 4 to ascertain changes in reading activities in which participants engaged with. *CHALLENGES:* There was no language or conceptual barrier for the use of the VET tool. However, the information captured did not provide the data expected. Several factors, such as restless and overstimulated toddlers and time constraints within a public program, impacted on the usefulness of the VET as a tool. The public setting of the program also makes in-depth conversations with participants difficult, although some discussions took place.



	<p>December 2017 – January 2018: Summer Reading Club Bayside Library participates in the National summer reading club program. As part of this program, children are encouraged to read in December/January and record their reading in a booklet in order to receive a prize at a morning tea or party. 98 0-5 yearolds participated in this program with their families. The children received one of the Let's Read books as a prize and families received an appropriate tip sheet. The Summer Reading Club is a great incentive for families to continue reading over the summer break and it invites them back to our literacy activities after the summer break. This year the Let's Read resources allowed us to further engage families in the discussion about the importance of reading to and with your children.</p>
	<p>9 April – 13 April 2018: Final Week of Term for Early Literacy Programs All our early literacy programs take a break over the two-week school holiday break. As a gentle encouragement to parents to continue reading to their children over the holiday break, all participants were offered tip sheets. Tip sheets were distributed to 90 families with babies, 140 families with toddlers and 150 families with pre-schoolers across our network or seven branches.</p>
	<p>18 April 2018: Maternal Health and Wellbeing Session As part of our programs aimed at parents, we ran a session aimed at mothers of babies which was presented by a physiotherapist. 11 mothers with babies aged between 3 and 8 months attended. This event offered the opportunity for a brief discussion of our early literacy programs (which most participants were familiar with) as well as the Let's Read tip sheets.</p>