



**Let's Read Community Annual Reports Summary
2009**

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Let's Read Community Annual Reports Summary 2009

The Let's Read Community Annual report (2009) template was e-mailed to all Let's Read communities (except those sites in Tasmania and Queensland which are government funded) at the end of January 2010. Forty Let's Read communities submitted their 2009 Annual Reports. This report presents a summary of data from those reports.

Let's Read management would like to thank all those community-based professionals and organisations who have committed their time to delivering Let's Read to families, developing creative ways to engage families in emergent literacy activities and taking the time to collect data and compile these annual reports.

The Let's Read Annual Report covers the following outcomes:

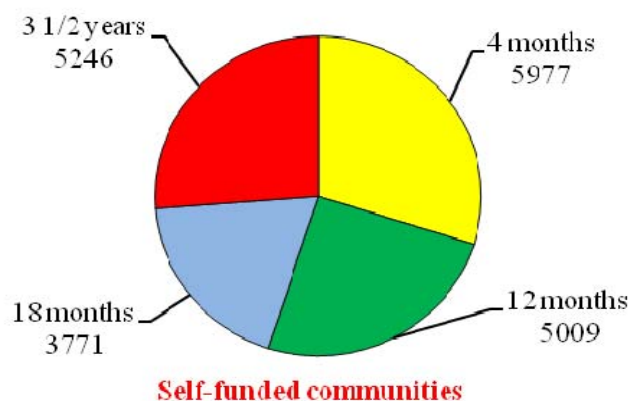
- (a) Number of children reached in 2009
- (b) Number of children to be targeted in 2010
- (c) Community involvement
- (d) Community activities promoting early literacy
- (e) Highlights & Challenges
- (f) Case studies/good news stories
- (g) Sustainability.

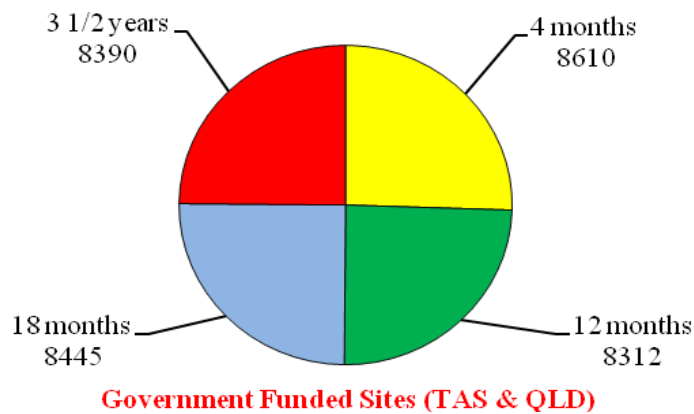
Those communities who submitted an annual report for 2009 are as follows:

No	ID	Community Name	Community Area	State
1	NAT 67	Beachside Family Centre/Umina Public School	Umina	NSW
2	NAT 153	Farmborough Road Public School (Illawarra)	Unanderra	NSW
3	NAT 4	Macquarie Regional Library C4C	Dubbo	NSW
4	NAT 37	Northumberland Network	Cessnock	NSW
5	NAT 64	Nowra Family Support (Dept of Housing)	Nowra	NSW
6	NAT 42	Port Stephens Council / Family Action Centre	Raymond Terrace	NSW
7	NAT 111	Richmond Tweed Regional Library	Lismore	NSW
8	NAT 3	Uniting Care Burnside	Coffs Harbour	NSW
9	NAT 7	Uniting Care Burnside	Parramatta	NSW
10	NAT 1	Uniting Care Burnside	Taree	NSW
11	NAT 203	Uniting Care Burnside	Wyong	NSW
12	NAT 8	Wellington City Council	Wellington	NSW
13	NAT 205	Moulden Park/Gray Child Care Links	Palmerston NT	NT
14	NAT 160	Tata Family Centre	Karama	NT
15	NAT 214	Bribie Island State School	Bongaree	QLD
16	NAT193	REACH Program	Mundubbera	QLD
17	NAT102	Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc	Toowoomba	QLD

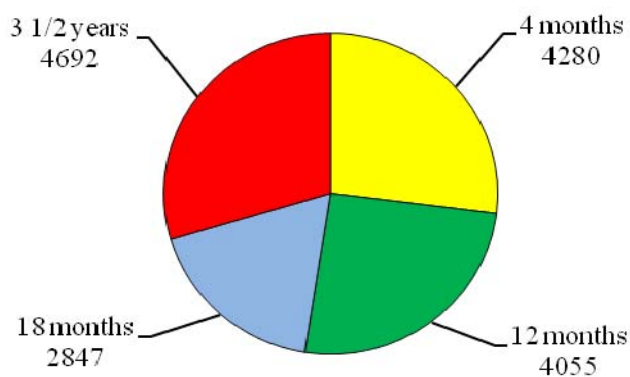
No	ID	Community Name	Community Area	State
18	NAT 115	Townsville Library Services	Thuringowah	QLD
19	NAT 210	City of Playford	Elizabeth Vale	SA
20	NAT 204	Onkaparinga Let's Read	Hackham West	SA
21	NAT 211	Port Pirie	Port Pirie	SA
22	NAT 125	Bellarine Community Health	Portarlington	VIC
23	NAT 53	Bendigo St Lukes	Bendigo	VIC
24	NAT 95	Casey – Cardinia Library Service	Cranbourne	VIC
25	NAT 34	City of Wodonga	Wodonga	VIC
26	NAT 33	Community Connections	Warrnambool	VIC
27	NAT 97	Community Hub – Colac Otway Shire	Colac	VIC
28	NAT 21	Corio Best Start	Corio	VIC
29	NAT 26	East Gippsland Community Health Service	Bairnsdale	VIC
30	NAT 209	Kilmany Uniting Care Wellington Shire	Sale	VIC
31	NAT 138	Mornington Peninsula Shire	Mornington	VIC
32	NAT 20	Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh/Moorabool Shire	Bacchus Marsh	VIC
33	NAT 124	Wyndham Library Service	Wyndham	VIC
34	NAT 147	Armadale Community Family Centre	Armadale	WA
35	NAT 134	A Smart Start – Central Great Southern	Katanning	WA
36	NAT 103	Broome Library	Broome	WA
37	NAT 85	Gosnells Early Years Group (GEYAG)	Maddington	WA
38	NAT 55	Kwinana Early Years Services	Kwinana	WA
39	NAT 35	Mirrabooka Playgroup	Mirrabooka	WA
40	NAT 131	Shire of Exmouth	Exmouth	WA

a) Number of children reached in 2009





b) Total number of children to be targeted in 2010



c) Community Involvement

- Municipal Library 29 communities
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse families 28 communities
- Indigenous and/or Torres Strait Islander families 28 communities

d) Community activities promoting early literacy

NEW SOUTH WALES

Beachside Family Centre/Umina Public School

- Held Story Time in the Park, 165 families and 250 children attended, covered by local paper The Peninsula News. Different reading stations were available on the theme of Book Week (Jungle Theme). Community members, Uniting Care Burnside, Music Playgroup Leader and Literacy Specialist all read, sang and did craft activities.
- Conducted Morning Bedtime Stories with 2 sessions at the local Umina Library where children came along in their pyjamas with their pillow and teddy etc. 120 children attended over 2 mornings and there were at least 20 new library memberships.
- Special visit to the Library with young mothers from Babes with Babes (TAFE educational

group). Children's librarian did a tour of the library and told some stories. 10 young mothers attended and their 10 children joined the Library.

Farmborough Road Public School (ILLAWARRA)

Numerous community events were held across the year, involving members of the Let's Read project group, including:

- Transition to School Expo's across the region.
- Communities for Children Shellharbour Kidsfest and Biggest Playgroups events.

Macquarie Regional Library C4C

- In an ongoing basis there is delivery of an early childhood literacy bag to parents of new born babies. This involves using early childhood nurses to deliver and explain the importance of literacy (i.e. read with your baby) to the parents of new borns.
- Every 6 weeks, library staff attend the New Mothers Group to reinforce early literacy messages. This ensures all Mums/Dads receive their early literacy bag and encourages them to join the library and use resources for babies from birth. A lap sit program has also been implemented to encourage new mums to join in.

Nowra Family Support (Dept of Housing)

- A stall with a Let's Read display was part of an Anti-Poverty Day event at an East Nowra Park.
- Articles on Let's Read have been included in the Jet Crèche Newsletter and also in the East Nowra Newsletter. The newsletters are distributed to 1200 households in the East Nowra area with a large proportion going to NSW Department of Housing residents.
- Storytime is held once a month at the Nowra Family Support Services venue with attendance varying from 1 – 12 families.
- A Music for Fun playgroup has been conducted at Nowra Family Support Services over the past 6 months. At the end of the Playgroup, storytime was held and the names of parents who were interested in enrolling in the program were collected and followed up by a designated staff member.

Port Stephens Council/Family Action Centre

- Visited local playgroups three times a week and provided literacy sessions modelling reading for parents. Average of 12 children per session
- Held Let's Read Party – Celebration of Early Literacy on 17 February 2010, 30 children attended.
- Held Dad's Twilight story times twice in 2009 with 10 families, 255 children attended.
- On a weekly basis visited local families, reading and lending books - 70 families participated.

Richmond Tweed Regional Library (Lismore Let's Read)

Promoted Lismore Let's Read at community events including:

- Belly to Big School Family fun day
- Teddy bear Picnic in the Park
- Preschool family day.
- Indigenous Literacy Day

Uniting Care Burnside – Coffs Harbour

- Reading corner is available to encourage parents to read to their children as part of playgroup time.
- Regular meetings with Aboriginal Maternal Health Scheme, have established a partnership for nurses to deliver Let's Read to ATSI families in Coffs Harbour

Uniting Care Burnside – Parramatta

On October 2009 Young parent's Information day was held where Let's Read materials and reading activities were distributed. Local media were notified.

Uniting Care Burnside – Taree

- In an ongoing basis "Dads Bags" are given out to all first time parents who sign up in the local hospital's antenatal classes. Each bag contains Let's Read DVD, from 4 months info & activity sheets and a book from the first age group.
- On December 2009 Antenatal Reunion Christmas Party was held. This was a networking event for first time parents. There was a story time presented by municipal library to promote and model reading from early age. 35 adults, 22 children - 12 and under attended.

Uniting Care Burnside – Wyong

- Gosford City Reads was held in August 2009, various early childhood professionals from various organisations attended.
- Literacy promotion through newsletter articles and also at Warnervale Family & Community Centre including activities at playgroup.
- An invitation was extended to Young Families Group to attend local library, meet the Librarian, have a story time, and become members with their children. Encouraged parents to attend local libraries for story time and borrowing of books and music. There was 1 Family Worker, 5 volunteers, 8 parents and 10 children.

NORTH TERRITORY

Moulden Park/Gray Child Care Links

- The Links workers distributed Lets read book packs at 2 community child care centres at afternoon/evening pick-up times for 2 full weeks.

- The Links workers also distributed at local playgroups in the morning sessions. As a result many parents came to the Links office after the distribution as they had heard from friends and neighbours about the program.

QUEENSLAND

Bribie Island State School

- On 27 January 2010, parent met to launch the 'Let's Read' program at BISS, 60 parents attended.
- An article ran in the local newspaper to inform the community of the program.
- St Michael's College and Bribie Kindy both launched the program on enrolment days and nights. The staff involved were the Support teacher and Kindy Director supported by admin and committee respectively.

REACH Program (Mundubbera)

Promoted Let's Read at community events including:

- Under8's Gayndah / Mundubbera on May 2009.
- Monto Community Day.
- Set up an information stand at Gayndah Library, promotion through REACH Newsletter, 2 newspaper articles to promote the program.
- Committee members attended Gayndah Inner Wheel Meeting to solicit community support for volunteers to assist with the program.
- Poster put up in GP surgeries and Hospital waiting rooms in Gayndah/Mundubbera/Monto.

Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc

- The third Family Fun Day was held on 26 October 2009 at Wilsonton Heights with over 200 people attended. Activities included reading with children, face painting, and activities with the local community police, sausage sizzle and free show bags containing safety information for children and their families. Representatives from NAPCAN, Education QLD, Qld Police, Guide Dogs, Child Protection Unit, The Smith Family, Neighbourhood Watch, Heights Community Centre and Safer Toowoomba Partnership attended.
- Let's Read volunteers and The Smith Family hosted a Teddy Bears Picnic in Queens Park in November 2009. Over 100 children and their families attended.

Townsville Library Services

- Delivery of weekly Baby Rhyme Time sessions to nurture love of literacy and learning through rhymes and songs. 2550 babies aged up to 2 years old attended.

- Delivery of weekly Storytime sessions for Preschoolers. 4421 children aged up to 6 years old attended.
- In May 2009 Family Reading Challenge and Let's Read activity was held in the Park. There were 45 children attended.
- In September 2009 Early Literacy Day was held at St Theresa's Community Centre. There were 65 children up to 6 years old attended.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

City of Playford- Elizabeth Vale

- Let's Read was launched on Tuesday the 25th of August 2009, with over 100 people in attendance. Families engaged in fun, free activities run by local Early Years sites. There was face painting, readings by various local authors and a sausage sizzle. Keith Conlon and two Adelaide Crows Players; Scott Thompson and Brad Moran, also helped to celebrate the launch by reading various Let's Read books to the children and signing library bags that were made and donated by Gawler VIEW club. The event was very successful with the Playford Mayor showing his solid support for the program's growth in the area.
- A Let's Read Morning Tea is planned. Parents and children will be invited to develop awareness of the program in the local school community. Authors will be invited to read and primary school aged children will be asked to perform one or two of the books – i.e. Hungry Caterpillar' or sing 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear'.

Onkaparinga Let's Read

- "Babies to Bookworm", early years literacy event was held and Let's Read was launched in Hackham West on 22 April 2009. The community partners were Hackham West Community Centre, Hackham West Primary School, Hackham West Children's Centre, City of Onkaparinga, Learning Together, Onkaparinga Library, Save the Children, Community Foodies, and Communities for Children and local scrapbooking mums. The event was held across three sites creating connections between the Children's Centre, Primary School and Community Centre. All activities on the day were focused on early years literacy and were very popular.

One of the highlights was a visit from the author Jo Feidler who read her books in several locations and gave away signed posters.

- "A Day in the Park " event was held in a park in Hackham West on 28 October 2009 and involved two kindergartens coming together for the day to get to know each other and have fun. Hackham West Kindergarten and Brentwood Drive Kindergarten both attended and approximately 50 children and parents attended on the day. Let's Read was one of the activities running along with storytelling, craft activities and packs being delivered to families on the day. 30 Children received Lets Read packs.

Port Pirie

- On Tuesday 20th October 2009 Let's Read was launched in Port Pirie, South Australia. We have a partnership with the Department of Education and Children's Services - Learning Together at Home program, and the Crows Foundation. Mayor Brenton Vanstone opened

the event thanking the families for attending and The Smith Family for their work in the community. There were approximately 200 preschool students and their families in attendance. The children enjoyed a slice of Let's Read cake to celebrate the official launch of the program while listening to a numbers of books being read to them by Geoff Brock (member of Frome) and Margie Arnold (owner of Meg's Bookshop). The launch coincided with Port Pirie's 'Fun Day in the Park', in which the children participated in different learning activities organised by the local kindergartens, Child and Youth Health, Environmental Health Service, Tiny Tots, Tenby10 and the Metropolitan Fire Service.

- Nathalie Hayes (Learning Together Manager) will be running group sessions to assist parents in their child's early learning and development. Nathalie Hayes is trained to deliver the Let's Read program to these families during school terms.

VICTORIA

Bellarine Community Health (City of Greater Geelong) Port

On the 15th May 2009 a focus group was held with 5 parents and 4 children from the 3223 postcode area participating. An additional 6 parents were interviewed separately to the focus group by the Family Services Worker from Bellarine Community Health. The aim was to get feedback about the Let's Read program.

Bendigo St Lukes (DHS Funding)

- Dahlia & Arts Festival was held in March as a community event in Eaglehawk. Small bookcases were installed, vinyl cushions spread around with small tables and chairs. A larger banner "Have you Read to your Child today?" encouraged families to come and share the reading experience.
- Similar activities to the one above were held in October at the Kids Character Carnival, a City of Greater Bendigo initiative.
- A Literature Festival was held in Eaglehawk during International Children's Week. It involved story reading hosted in local businesses and delivered by Secondary College students and a storyteller. It was followed by a barbecue in Canterbury Gardens. Each student received a show bag with a book and Let's Read promotional material and a balloon. The theme for 2009 was "Reading – It's Magic" with storyteller and magician Don Jones being a feature. The festival was attended by junior school students from local primary schools, local kindergartens, playgroups, family day care groups and the broader community. It excited extensive interest in broader community.
- "Have You Read to Your Child Today?" was held as a major initiative supporting Lets Read it was developed by The Smith Family in association with the Bendigo group. Coasters and stickers have been produced and were distributed to playgroups, schools and local business, especially takeaway food outlets.
- Nursery Rhyme cards were developed as a further initiative. Sets of 24 feature popular nursery rhymes were distributed as swap cards with children encouraged to collect them. These were being progressively distributed through playgroups as a record of reading experiences and through the "Books in Shops" program.

Casey - Cardinia Library Service

- Promoted Let's Read program to families through local medical centre nurses during one on one conversation with their client during procedures and immunisations. They distributed 225 Lets Read packs.
- Program delivery through a local emergency relief agency. Workers have also brought some of their clients to the library personally, to show them what free services are available.
- The Library Outreach Officer also delivers Let's Read. Avenues for delivery include early intervention programs for children with developmental delay, young new parent programs, playgroups, community houses, and other council run initiatives that target families, such as Family Day Care, Dads Matter, Young Parent programs, toddler programs and school transitions programs.
- Outreach to New Parent programs not only delivers Let's Read but introduces families to the library, many of whom have not been in a library since they were at school. The Library Outreach Officer visits the new parent program, delivers Let's Read and talks about the library's resources and services. Parents are then invited to spend the final session of the new parent program at the library where they are given a brief tour, enrolled as members and then spend the rest of the session in the community room. This is a great way of breaking down any inhibitions people may have about visiting the library. There is safety in numbers and it encourages further visits.
- Library Outreach presentations at Certificate Three and Diploma Courses.-Early Years Staff on the importance of literacy in the early years. Literacy kits, and ages and stages presentation of recommended books.
- Literacy Kits distribution to Long Day Child Carers, Family Day Carers, Playgroups. As some parents are difficult to reach due to work long hours, more reliance is on carers for the developmental and literacy needs of children. Library has Legs tries to enhance partnerships with child care centres to improve the literary experiences of children in their care. Collaboration between the early year outreach officer, a local speech pathologist and an early year's development officer with the Casey Council resulted in the development of a number of literacy kits. Housed in boxes, the kits contain a variety of materials; each has a selection of books, as well as companion materials centred on a specific theme. These boxes are for loan to local child carers and child care centres to support the reading experiences, and to encourage different ways of enhancing language and literacy skills in children.
- Story Corners for families – consisting of picture books and shelving established at local community venues where families go. This will help the community to establish and build positive environments for children and their families. These story corners give families time to sit and wait in a positive way sharing a story from one of the carefully selected picture books. The story corners will be moving on to other venues on a rotational basis, spreading the message of reading and promoting the library's services at the same time.
- Woodlands Treasure Hunt Walk Activity was held to provide the opportunity for families and children in child care with a park walk experience. The activity linked the natural park environment with activities that promote literacy. Children came away from the event with a treasure box of keepsakes and a story of their experience. This event celebrated children's connection with stories and encouraged extending those stories in to activities conversations

and narratives. It also highlighted local parents, carers and educators as promoters of literacy experiences, and modelled turning literacy into everyday experiences.

City of Wodonga

- Organized Fun filled mornings of literacy and activities in the local parks in periodic basis.
- Took story time to the local immunisation sessions

Community Hub – Colac (Colac Otway Shire)

Preparation for Transition to School - Community Seminar for parents of pre-schoolers was held on 19th August 2009 - 80 parents attended. The majority of other activities were targeted towards the families involved in the program.

Corio Best Start / City of Greater Geelong

- Corio Outreach Librarian-Geelong Regional Library: In 2009, the Geelong Regional Library Corporation appointed a children's & Youth Services Worker to based at Corio Library. This position enables the Corio Outreach Librarian initiative to continue. Corporation and Rosewall Best Start initiative: Rosewall Best Start funded the project for 7 hours per week in 2006, 2007 and 2008 which enabled the library to continue this position at 3 hours per week as part of the Children's and Youth Services role. The Children's & Youth Services role has many other exciting child & family directed activities based at the Corio Library which compliments the early years literacy initiatives in Corio, including the promotion of Let's Read. The Corio Library also has a dedicated section at the library specifically for 'Let's Read', which embeds it in community access.
- Let's Read delivery through kindergartens and sometimes the Prep classes at some schools. Those that have been involved over the last three terms are Norlane/ North Shore Kindergarten, William Hovell Kindergarten, Corio Kindergarten, Rosewall Early Learning Centre, North Shore Primary School, Corio Primary School and Norlane West Primary School. Visits are also arranged to kindergartens and schools to encourage students to have regular visits to Corio Library.
- Corio Pram Stroll in 2009 was held during Children's Week, over 20 families attended and over 30 'Let's Read Kits were distributed.
- Early Years Promotion at the Corio Shopping Centre: A joint promotion of child & family services with City of Greater Geelong Community Development team was held in October at the Corio Shopping Centre. Again over 40 Lets Read kits were distributed with a 'Let's Read' promotion display. Let's Read is also permanently displayed in the City of Greater Geelong Customer Service booth at Corio Shopping Centre.
- Corio Fun/Play Day was held as a joint event by the Corio College Family Centre and Rosewall Best Start to celebrate families in the local area and link families to local child & family agencies and services. The focus was on early years literacy and Corio Library provided a wonderful 'reading & rhymes 'tent and delivered over 100 'Let's Read packs.
- Organized 'Welcome to Baby' Project 2010 on 21 April 2010 as a family –friendly event to welcome new babies and newly arrived families to the area. The target partners were MCH Centres, Centrelink, GP's and the Housing Department to make connections with new

families and other residents in Corio who were not already engaged in children's services in Corio. 'Let's Read' will have a strong focus on the day and will be provided in the gift pack. The event will be held at the Corio Library hall, adjacent to the children's library section.

Kilmany Uniting Care Wellington Shire

- Pitstop Program & Lets Read was held from 4th Aug - 15th September with 2 professional qualified Let's Read tutors, 12 dads, and 17 children attended.
- Another Pitstop & Lets Read from 16th October – 4th December with 2 professional qualified Let's Read Tutors, 17 dads and 53 children attending.
- Koori transition to kinder program was held on November 2009 with 4 Lets read tutors, 2 vaccination nurses, 2 bbq cooks, 8 mums, 20 grandmas and 24 children attending. The activities included a day out in the park, group stories and individual reading sessions. The event was covered by the Gippsland Times.
- Held Early Years Conference – Let's Read - concurrent sessions. All Let's Read tutors, some of the parents, kinder teachers, and maternal child health nurses attended.

Mornington Peninsula Shire

- Hastings Let's Read Working Group Established in October 2009.
- Transition Packs were distributed to five schools in January 2010.

Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool Shire Council

- Organized Let's Read promotion at the Ballan and Bacchus Marsh Literacy Trails on September 2009.
- Organized promotion via Maternal and Child Health and early years services.
- Promotion via noticeboard at Bacchus Marsh Library,

Wyndham Library Service

- Hosted Books and Bubs talks which involved a library staff member talking to young mums groups, established by Maternal Child and House nurses, about the importance of their involvement in the development of their child's literacy and numeracy skills. New mums were presented with library bags containing information about the library's children's programmes as well as copies of the Let's Read "*Things to do when you are reading*" and the four months old information and booklist sheets.
- Included copies of the DVD "*Lets Read: A Simple Guide to Reading with Your Child*" as part of Wyndham Library Service collection which are available for borrowing.
- Partnered with VICSEG to present "*Multilingual Story times*" on November 1st at the Children's Picnic. While the children were occupied with the story time, the staff took the opportunity to talk to parents about literacy and numeracy using Let's Read as a guide

- Distributed 25 copies of the book “Hooray for Fish” by Lucy Cousins on November 2009 to the families of the children who attend the Karen Playgroup.
- Distributed 20 Let’s Read DVDs to ISIS Primary Care on January 2010, for distribution amongst the families who participate in their playgroups.
- Delivery of weekly Rhyme time sessions at all branches of the Wyndham Library Service.
- Delivery of story time sessions at all branches of the Wyndham Library Service (2 sessions per week at Werribee Library and 3 sessions per week at Heaths Road Library), this increased in September 2009 with the opening of Point Cook Library. It delivers 2 sessions per week.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Armadale Community Family Centre

- Held a ‘Reconnecting to Heritage’ day, to celebrate the many heritages in the Armadale area. The activity was to advertise the Let’s Read’ program by distributing flyers explaining the program, getting volunteers to read stories to children throughout the day. Aboriginal children’s books were distributed to the Aboriginal children in attendance.
- ‘Donut King Book club Launch’ a local store was launching a book club, where parents were encouraged to share books with their children while enjoying morning tea. Let’s Read volunteers set up a stall with posters and hands out promoting reading together and the program. Books, donated by Scholastics Australia, were distributed to children in attendance.
- Champion Centre 1st Birthday: The Champion Centre is a local Indigenous centre. Armadale has a large Indigenous community. To help celebrate their first birthday Let’s Read Armadale donated 29 Indigenous books left over from the Early Years Grant for Indigenous Children’s Books to distribute to families.
- Held the annual ‘National Simultaneous Storytime’ at Pebbles playgroup. Let’s Read was part of it ‘Pete the Sheep’ was read. There were also craft activities and a raffle held where a book donated by Scholastics Australia was the prize. 10 adults and 10 children attended.
- A Community conference lunch was held at which the Let’s Read co-ordinator addressed the group to talk about Let’s Read, what the program was about, what we had done over the past year and how we were unable to get future funding.
- Held a PEP party where surplus Let’s Read resources were distributed. In total 79 books were given away. Many stories were read to the children who attended.

A Smart Start – Central Great Southern

- On 3rd March 2009: Learning to Read and Write Information Morning (for parents) in Tambellup. 11 parents and 2 grandparents attended.

- On 18th September 2009: Teeth and Talk Information Morning (for parents) in Katanning, presented by Dental Therapist and Speech Pathologist. 18 parents attended. Early literacy promoted and book gifts given to children.
- On 13th October 2009: Meet and Greet Your Professionals Information Morning (for parents) in Kojonup. School Principal, Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Dental Therapist, Child Health Nurse, Dietician, Parenting WA and Librarian presented. 22 parents attended. Early literacy promoted and book gifts given to children.
- Storytime sessions at local libraries in Central Great Southern
- A Smart Start Storytime kits available for loan to groups within Central Great Southern.

Broome Library

- Held 1st and 2nd birthday clubs on a monthly basis. Allied health workers – Child Care Nurse, dietician and Speech therapists attended and joined in the activities.
- Attended the One Arm Point community open day and distributed Let’s Read resources to the children. The inclusion of an indigenous first discovery book, ‘People and Places’ helped to promote literacy in the more remote communities where the written English word was often not their first language.
- Visited the Kindergartens and Child Care Centres at Lombadina and Djarindjin. Read stories to children and pre-printed some labels “This book belongs to...” so the children could have their name written on it and have a sense of ownership. Providing a range of books for them to choose from helps in both decision making skills and the experience of ownership of the books, encouraging reading both at school and outside school hours.

Gosnells Early Years Group (GEYAG)

- Launched “Bonding with Books” at Centro Maddington Shopping Centre on 27 August 2009. Approximately 100 children were in attendance plus parents and carers. 150 book packs were distributed. The event was launched by the Mayor City of Gosnells and attended by other dignitaries and service providers. Non-indigenous Professional Story Teller, Jenny Hill and Indigenous performers and Levi Islam (Didgeridoo Breath) told stories to the children. The event launched monthly reading sessions to be held at the shopping centre. A number of publishers also sponsored the event.
- Father’s Day storytelling session was held by Levi Islam (Didgeridoo Breath) and sponsored by Centro Maddington on 3 September 2009 with 15 children in attendance.
- Indigenous storytelling session was conducted by staff from Derbarl Yerrigan Aboriginal Health Service on 5 November 2009 with 8 children in attendance.
- General storytelling session was conducted by staff from The City of Gosnells Library Services on 3rd December 2009 with 10 children in attendance.
- Nutrition focused reading session was conducted by staff from Child & Adolescent Community Health on 4 February 2010 with 5 children in attendance. Further sessions are planned each month until June 2010.

Kwinana Early Years Services

- Organized Healthy Active Day on 7 April 2009 with 30 children attending, assisted by staff from Kwinana Recquatic.
- Naidoc Week activities and storytelling on 2 July 2009 was held, 9 children attended, assisted by a staff members from MACC (Medina Aboriginal Cultural Centre), The Smith Family and The Town of Kwinana Library.
- Book week celebration was held at the Kwinana Library on 28th August 2009 with 48 children attending, assisted by a staff member from the Kwinana Library, an advertisement in the local paper.
- Bounty Family Festival Medina was held on 13th September 2009 with 40 children and one KEYS staff member attending.
- Organized Kwinana Childrens Party during Childrens Week on 27 October 2009 with 18 children and one KEYS staff member attending.
- Held Community Day at Hub Shopping Centre on 29 October 2009 with 12 children and one KEYS staff member attending.

Mirabooka C4C/Playgroup WA

- Literacy Links has continued to use a variety of interventions designed to promote early literacy. Components of the programme include: implementation of Let's Read, development and distribution of literacy resource packs for early childhood workers, parents and carers and regular visits to early childhood settings such as child care centres and pre-schools, and a very well utilised pre-loved book scheme.
- Attended monthly Early Years Network Meetings in the Mirabooka District and convened the Literacy Links Reference Group to discuss the project and plan and prepare future activities.
- Raise awareness of early literacy practices through workshops for parents and professionals with information to professionals has continued to be updated and distributed. This included Child Care Coordinators and staff, Kindergarten teachers and Playgroup Leaders.
- In March the Early Literacy Community Conference was held and most recently distributed a Story Box to every Child Care Centre. This box contained a copy of the book, a sheep hand puppet, stickers, craft, literacy activities and game suggestions in relation to the story, copies of all the Literacy Links Tip Sheets and brochures as well as Information Tip Sheets from Community Literacy Conference.
- Professionally Prepared Resource Material: Let's Read resources have continued to be ordered regularly to maintain the delivery of the Let's Read program. This incorporates the community tip sheets, book suggestions, age appropriate tip sheet and book. The two Local Libraries and Child Health nurses have continued to distribute over the past 6 months. In total 1117 Let's Read Packs have been distributed.
- National Simultaneous Story time 'Pete the Sheep' by Jackie French was organized and promoted by Australian Library and Information Association. It was held in the Parenting

Space at the Mirrabooka Shopping Centre. On the day 65 people including children attended. Activities included masks to colour in, sheep to count, hairstyles to stick on the sheep, cotton wool to glue onto a sheep outline, a book mark to colour and baby rhyme time information as well as additional sheep books for families to read. It was a very successful event which made the project very visual in the community and families from a wide variety of ethnic background participated.

- Community Involvement: 10 students from a local high school volunteered and packed 500 Let's Read and Literacy Information packs that have been distributed to Child Care Centre's, Mirrabooka and Girrawheen Libraries and Child Health Nurses to ensure packs will continue to be distributed to families for the foreseeable future while transition takes place to a new community partner for the project.

Shire of Exmouth

- Four sets of twenty-five Let's Read recommended books were purchased by the Exmouth Library. One set is kept in the Library for loan, while the other three sets were loaned to the following groups on a long-term basis: Child Health Clinic, Day Care, and Playgroup.
- Weekly Story, Rhyme and Craft sessions are held on Mondays at 9:30 am. These sessions are open to all children aged 0-5 and their parents or carers. Sessions are advertised on the Community Notice Board, in the Shire newsletter, and on the Toy Library notice board.

e) Highlights and Challenges

The challenges Let's Read communities have faced this year and the effects of these challenges have had on the families, service providers and organizations.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Beachside Family Centre/ Umina Public School

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Children who would not have been read to have had their parents doing this.	Parents are feeling more confident in their ability to read to their children.	An additional aspect to service delivery and a way to focus and have a conversation about encouraging early literacy skills.
Challenges		Getting parents to borrow from the Let's Read Library and the local library.	Ensuring that the borrowing system is working well for the organisation. E.g. Family Day Care are now using Let's Read with their carers reading to children and then the books are borrowed out to the parents when they come to pick up the children.

Farmborough Road Public School (ILLAWARRA)

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Over 600 families have received Let's Read age appropriate packs, enhancing family attachment and joy of sharing books with their parents and siblings.	Over 600 parents have received a high quality early literacy packs, including a children's book, to engage and share with their children. The one on one delivery of these packs by a trained worker enhances the ongoing relationship with families and participating services.	Let's Read delivery enhances Illawarra's early childhood sector's commitment to emergent literacy practices and outcomes.
Challenges	Ensuring the available Let's Read resources reach the most vulnerable children within the community.	Overcoming obstacles relating to the transient lifestyle of families experiencing disadvantage due to multi-faceted issues including housing and stability.	Accessing Let's Read training for a sector with fluid workforce. Delivering Let's Read within the constraints of the programs mode of delivery.

Macquarie Regional Library C4C

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	N/A	Continue to educate new parents about the importance of reading to children from birth.
Challenges	N/A	N/A	Parents with low literacy levels - have encouraged parents with low literacy levels to use the Let's Read DVD along with the book and they can "read" along with the baby.

Nowra Family Support (Dept of Housing)

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of parents reported that they read the books with their children and watched the DVD. • 98% of parents are now reading to their children on a regular basis. • 90% of families have registered with the local library. • 90% of parents report an improved relationship with their children. • Several parents have requested additional resources for their children whilst some reported that their children can recite "<i>I went walking</i>" by heart. 	N/A
Challenges	N/A	There is a demand for more culturally appropriate resources.	Lack of trained volunteers. There is a cyclical impact of workers/volunteers moving on to other towns or moving away into new occupations.

Port Stephens Council/Family Action Centre C4C (SCI)

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	All Children 0-5 have access to packs.	Parental awareness increasing about importance of reading to children 0-5 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let's Read packs readily available throughout Local Government Area. • Library staffs have incorporated Let's Read into information provided on signing a new patron.
Challenges	Children may miss out on packs.	Loss of chance to raise awareness of importance of reading to children 0-5 years.	It is still a challenge to keep new parents informed about the packs.

Richmond Tweed Regional Library (Lismore Let's Read)

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Children are encouraged to look at books, enjoying the pictures and being introduced to letters and new words.	The parents have always remained positive about this program and enjoy the age appropriate book lists.	In 2009 there was clear evidence of parents coming back to receive the next age appropriate book for their child. This is encouraging them to the point that they wish to return to the library and to get more books in their homes.
Challenges	N/A	N/A	N/A

Uniting Care Burnside – Coffs Harbour

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	N/A	N/A
Challenges	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Men in Families program is funded to provide services for first time parents only, the program can't be fully advertised as only some families are eligible. Child & Family Health nurses are not willing to deliver the Let's Read program at Vaccination Days as it would be discriminating against parents who are not first time parents. • Uniting Care Burnside does not have the funding to deliver the Let's Read program to all children in Coffs Harbour. Only the 4 month & 12 month packs were given to first-time parents.

Uniting Care Burnside – Parramatta

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Greater exposure to early literacy experiences.	Awareness of need to read to children.	Tool for workers to initiate discussions around literacy within trusted relationship.
Challenges	Increasing issues with language delays noticeable	Reliance on media for communication interfering with conversations – lack of awareness of how IT and TV interferes with children social and language development.	Decrease in availability of extra \$\$ from Government or other is barrier to kit purchase by workers as they can't budget for them in NGOs.

Uniting Care Burnside – Wyong

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of books to child. • Share time and focus. • Children have the opportunity to interact with others & do activities in the workshop while parents are present. • Encourages parents to further develop, assist and facilitate a love of books. • Opportunity to experience books on a larger scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the value of reading to child. • Increased appreciation of literature. Always positive feedback from parents. • Always appreciate of book packs. • Highlights the importance of reading developing attachment. Builds community involvement, i.e.: library use. • Opportunity for parents to understand importance of pre-reading skills and borrowing of books. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Facilitator, Burnside. • Opportunity to share literature and model same. Have been able to integrate Let's Read into the Centre's regular programs to coincide with early learning policy. • Ready to go, easy to deliver, fits in well with home visits.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of consistency in access to regular exposure. • Children wanting to explore all areas of the library. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apathy and lack of motivation by some parents to commit to regular reading with child. • Parents' lack of confidence. • Developing an understanding of how library can work and how to be aware of their children once in the library and also understanding the benefits and how regular visits can assist their child before they can recognise words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to deliver in among rest of case plan. • Setting up and facilitating a workshop alone. • Time taken to stock take and apply for funding to re-stock book packs.

Wellington City Council

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	4 Age Groups	Indigenous Parenting Support Service.	Wellington Aboriginal Community Health Service.
Challenges	Time factor to set up bags etc.	N/A	Different staff keeping registers of distribution.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Moulden Park/Gray Child Care Links

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Edu-carers at both centres noticed increased interest in literature. Links worker while leading group times at intermittent intervals received many comments from children when a Lets Read selection book was included within story time. Comments like “that’s my book” “That’s my brother/sisters book”	Parents seemed reluctant to listen to recommended strategies, links worker was persistent in a friendly manner and delivered message. Children within child care were made aware of element like turn off the TV when reading and Links worker heard verbal instructions from children to parents around this topic after the fact.	Child care staff noticed heightened interest from children when exposed in centre to same books. Some children in 3yr old age group after 1 month were reciting the books as being read by child care staff.
Challenges	N/A	N/A	N/A

Tata Family Centre

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Easy to target children currently attending the family centre	Easy to find the time to talk to parents currently attending the family centre.	Good working relationships have been established with a number of community and government organizations and from time to time can target families that attend community events run by these organisations.
Challenges	Accessing the wider community that don't attend the centre.	Accessing parents that don't attend the centre	N/A

QUEENSLAND

Bribie Island State School

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	All 2010 prep enrolments have same copy of quality literature to read, enjoy and share as early classroom experience	Enthusiastic support evidenced by number of parents engaging , followed by similar numbers enrolling in our parent/ volunteer training to support classroom literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collegiality and team work, early intervention opportunities • Shared conversations. • Common understandings
Challenges	Minor.... some children already have book titles. We chose...Positives - good to have a backup copy if it is a favourite!	Parents who wish to use the DVD to "tell the stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to work on the timeliness of orders! • Packing the bags ...Need more volunteers!

REACH Program (Mundubbera)

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	N/A	N/A
Challenges	N/A	N/A	<p>There have been a number of challenges with the service providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main obstacle was that the coordinator of the project finished her employment and there was a 4 month break before a new one was appointed. There was no official hand over of the program and no training and support from Let's Read to know what to do to continue. A couple of the service providers who completed the training have also moved out of the district with their positions. • Some service providers have found it difficult to find the time to conduct the initial interviews with parents as well as following up with surveys. • Reaching the actual target group who would get the most benefits from the program as they do not attend playgroups, kindy etc. One comment was made that they have felt guilty giving out packs to Kindergarten parents as many of these people are doing lots of reading with their children already. • If the program is to be successful, there is a need to get more volunteers to undertake training who have the time to put into the program and be able to reach the target groups.

Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	2744 children have received books.	Feel supported in their parenting role.	Since starting the program in October 2007, 2744 packs have been delivered to children, 1230 in the North Western area.
Challenges	N/A	N/A	Getting professionals to become involved on steering committee and continuing to get local community support.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

City of Playford

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain access to literacy resources. • Finally had their own copy of their favourite book (Hairy McLairy). • Exposure to print. • The Children have been extremely excited and enthusiastic about receiving their packs. They eagerly come back each week for 4 weeks to fill up their 'bookmark' which we developed. They then receive their book to keep at home. • Love the DVD • Read along with the stories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained access to information about the importance of reading to their children. • Parents were able to give their child a book. Some mothers disclosed that they just recently had to flee the family home due to domestic violence – so both mother and child left with nothing and are now re-building. So unfortunately books are scarce in some family homes. This resource is worth more to them than gold in some instances. • The majority of parents so far already read to their children hence the program has re-enforced their philosophy of the importance reading and literacy with children. Parents have commented that borrowing from the centre is much easier than going to the library. • Turn T.V off to read a story before watching TV again. • Read the book at bed time and it helped settle child for bed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Let's Read in Playford has proven to be both positive and encouraging to date. Three of the eight sites have already found and secured their own funding for additional resources and The City of Playford has just confirmed that they will contribute an additional \$14900 to the program. • Great chance to have one on one meeting with families. • Fantastic having multiple copies of books for story time in groups and to share book themes with families in groups. • Build activities and play around books. • Making song packs and games with families to match books. • More borrowing happening because of multiple copies available without worrying about losing copies of favourite books. • Fits with our philosophy. • <i>Comment from Let's Read site: "The benefits out weigh the challenges but it will be important to maintain focus on sustaining the continuous introduction of the program."</i>

<p>Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging them to keep borrowing books after the initial 4 weeks and also encouraging them to borrow books from all age groups as there is sometimes a limited amount for their age. • Struggle with the flaps - child tears them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been difficult to schedule times to 'meet' with families to deliver the program effectively and correctly. Several different approaches have been tried but this continues to be an obstacle. Occasionally parents will request to receive their pack when they are dropping off their children but as one person trained to deliver directly works with the children, they cannot be released. • A schedule of full 1-2 mornings is planned at the centre to ensure that we capture more families. • Don't have a DVD player to watch the DVD. • Illiterate parents. • Negative parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is always difficult to release staff who work directly with the children as this has cost implications and is frustrating when parents do not arrive for scheduled times. Hopefully the strategy of having a staff person at the centre for a 'block of time' will help in overcoming this. • Fitting in the interviews, setting up and following up introduction of Let's Read, happening at different pace in different settings, still have programs to introduce but hard to find time to support all staff to get started and record data precisely and to measure benefits. • Needed to set up extra system to know who had been given packs to. A proforma to record this could be a good addition to the record keeping resources. • Limited time • Essentially there have been a few issues with regards to evaluation. However there were some uncertainties at the last Steering Committee meeting.
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Onkaparinga Let's Read

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	All of the children have been delighted to receive their own bag like Mums shopping bag and are proud to own their own book.	Many parents expressed thanks as they recognised books from their childhood and appreciated the resources.	Training a group of professionals from the same early year's network has been beneficial as some have moved into new roles in the community and are already able to deliver Lets Read in their new roles.
Challenges	Having their parents spend time reading with them	Parents take a while to warm to the idea that the resources are for free, they want to know what the catch is, and they received a positive answer that the catch is they get to have fun with their children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding a steering committee chairperson with the time and energy to take on the role was challenging, and took a deal of persuasion. • The cost of training is prohibitive as many service providers/organisations have to pay their staff to attend during the training as well as for the training and this has caused hesitancy about booking into a training session.

Port Pirie

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For families having access to literacy resources is very important to their child's learning development. • The Children have been excited about receiving their Let's Read books and DVD. • The parents and children have enjoyed watching the Let's Read DVD together. • The children are starting to read the stories along with their parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parents are able to give their child a reading book; maybe for the first time. • The parents have learnt to turn off the television, radio and music before they commence reading with their child. • Parents are now finding out that reading story books to their children, helps to settle them before they go to sleep. • The bond between parents and their child has been strengthening during each reading sessions. • Most parents are becoming aware of the importance of reading to their child from birth onwards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a great opportunity for the workers to have one to one meeting with the families. • Having multiple copies of books available during group story times will increase a child's learning opportunity. • The services are building activities and play around books for families. • Providing information to parents so they can use the learning tools during play and reading time with their child.
Challenges	<p>Encouraging the parents to borrow books of their child's age group, which sometimes were limited at the public library.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents with poor literacy skills. • Some families do not have access to a DVD player. • Supplying parents with program information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pro-forma has been given to trained professional to keep record of the program resources, which are given to their families. • Local library is encouraged to become involve in someway with the program.

VICTORIA

Bellarine Community Health (City of Greater Geelong)

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	The majority of parents were more confident in reading to their child. 10 out of the 11 parents were aware that at birth was the best age to start reading to your child.	N/A
Challenges	N/A	Some families do not own a DVD player and might be embarrassed to say so. Literacy of parents was also an issue/barrier to reading to their children.	There is a limited time for some workers involved in the project. They would have benefited from more time to allocate to explaining the Let's Read packs.

Community Connections – Warrnambool

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	N/A	N/A
Challenges	N/A	N/A	Due to the presence of Young Readers Victoria which provided free books to services, therefore it made it challenging to purchase books from Let's Read. Community Connections paid for half of the cost of Let's Read's books for Moyne and Corangamite Shire/Councils in 2009.

Community Hub – Colac (Colac Otway Shire)

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Love the books	Positive engagement with their children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcement of the strong early literacy messages of the program. Increased engagement with the library with the families. • Lets Read training was invaluable for the community staff – reinforced the reason for the programs.
Challenges	N/A	N/A	Funding to reach families outside of our agency. A future goal.

Corio Best Start / City of Greater Geelong

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Children and families getting access to good quality books and the skills and confidence that parents and children are developing through the 'Let's Read' DVD.	Growing confidence in reading to their children and a more comfortable attitude to using libraries.	The professional development received through the 'Let's Read training and the stimulus of shared early years literacy ideas through the network groups and the associated community events.
Challenges	Access to the local library is still problematic for some families who are dependent on public transport and have no or little access to a car.	The low literacy skills of some of the parents are often a silent barrier for the parents to support their children and embed reading and books as an enjoyable, regular activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To sustain funding beyond 2010. • Ensuring effective evaluation processes are implemented to identify key outcomes and bring about sustained change.

Kilmany Uniting Care Wellington Shire

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Koori Day out.	Pitstop for dads has improved the relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together in partnership • Shared workload
Challenges	Getting information and engaging more children in the targeted age group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency • Attendance • Getting to the library to access more books. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural staff leaving and unsuccessful recruitment. • Sick leave of staff.

Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh/Moorabool Shire Council

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	Over 900 children and their parents have benefited from receiving books and resources from the Let's Read Program. For many the information has been affirming of their current practices, for others it has provided ideas and encouragement to read regularly to their children.	N/A
Challenges	N/A	N/A	N/A

Wyndham

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	N/A	Provides good quality resources that can be utilised by staff when talking to parents
Challenges	N/A	N/A	Numerous staff changes meant that it took time for the programme to get up and running again in 2009

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Armadale Community Family Centre

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging literacy in the home. • Providing children with quality books to enjoy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explaining to parents the importance of reading to their children. • Giving parents the knowledge that it is never too early to read to your child. • Explaining to parents how reading to children in the first 3 years of life helped a child with its reading and writing skills when it went to school. • Encouraging parents to become members of the local library. • Giving parents a list of places where they could find cheap books for their children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of local groups have children of high needs groups who tended not to provide books for their children, did not understand the importance of reading to a young child and how that affected their future literacy skills. By providing the packs to local groups they could promote the literacy message, and improve the literacy of the children and future children. • A lot of agencies were attached to school would reap the benefits of having children exposed to books in the early years. • For some groups the program helps to promote their current message to parents about reading.
Challenges	<p>Not being able to give the children follow up packs when they became old enough for the next age pack due to discontinuation of funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not being able to get follow on packs as their children grew up. • Being unable to get packs for future children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having to wait for packs to arrive after the packs have been requested. • Being unable to get all of the packs they required due to lack of funding. Even for some groups being unable to provide packs for them at all. • Due to lack of funding and no future funding, groups that were interested in training were unable to attend training. • Being unable to give future packs to families as the children grew through the age groups • Trouble in getting data back from community members. • Trouble in conducting the surveys over the phone or distributing forms as it's another trouble to get the information back.

A Smart Start – Central Great Southern

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	The amount of fun they have with books, especially when combined with sing-a-longs and activities	The opportunities for parents to meet professional people and gain knowledge in an informal setting	Engaging with parents in an informal setting.
Challenges	Lack of resources and activities if funding does not continue	Lack of resources and activities if funding does not continue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing sustainable funding for A Smart Start. • Lack of FTE to report on Let's Read. • Have been in 'maintenance mode' for past 6 months.

Broome Library

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	N/A	To bring books to children who may not be as exposed to the world of literature and books.
Challenges	N/A	N/A	Time constraints and the varied role the person in charge currently holding as Deputy Manager.

Gosnells Early Years Group (GEYAG)

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 140 children have been present at the open reading sessions conducted monthly in the Centro Maddington Shopping Centre. The partnership with the shopping centre has added to the increase in profile of the importance of early literacy. A number of service providers have willingly contributed staff time free of charge to run these sessions. • The onsite playgroup at Huntingdale Primary School has also adopted Lets Read and is promoting to families attending the playgroup.
Challenges	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been a number of staff changes at various organisational partners of Lets Read. This has led to changes in the level of support and commitment received. • There is the need for ongoing training sessions not only to train up new providers but also to sustain the profile and importance of Lets Read in the community.

Kwinana Early Years Services - TSF Communities for Children

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	N/A	N/A	Community organisations have been very supportive of the program and have been very welcoming at playgroups, school readiness programs, Family Day Care Scheme, Recreation Centre where they run programs for new parents.
Challenges	Separating the children and parents so that the parents have the opportunity to listen and absorb information better.	N/A	Getting committee members to attend the scheduled meetings.

Shire of Exmouth

	Children	Parents	Service Providers/Organisation
Benefits	Interaction and socialisation with other children, building confidence as they share their relevant experiences and ideas about the story.	Socialisation and information sharing; parents new to Exmouth are welcomed and given advice and information about child services in the community.	Regular Story Time sessions and the distribution of Let's Read materials increases usage of the Children's Corner of the Library and encourages children and parents to borrow books and parenting materials, encouraging early childhood literacy.
Challenges	Some children are a bit more outgoing than others, making it necessary to provide a balance between listening and responding to the outgoing children, and trying to draw out the quieter children and foster their love of reading.	Some children sit quietly and are completely enthralled in the story, whilst others can have a shorter attention span, which then makes it more difficult for other parents to stop their own children from acting out in a similar manner.	Story Time is held Monday mornings at 9:30 am, as that day and time is good for parents and does not directly overlap with other activities in town. However, Monday mornings are often the busiest time for the Library and Telecentre, which can sometimes make for a very chaotic and noisy environment.

f) Case Studies/Good News Stories

Case studies/good new stories which highlight particular benefits derived from the Let's Read program in the community.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Beachside Family Centre/ Umina Public School

- One parent with 2 children aged 2 and 4 who has borrowed through Supported Playgroup then joined the Library and now consistently uses it for the children to borrow books.
- One young parent aged 16 years wanted to buy "I Went Walking" because her child loved the book so much. A free copy was given away to her.

Macquarie Regional Library C4C

Being invited to attend the Dubbo New Mums Group, which runs every 6 weeks, with a new group and talk about the importance of reading to baby from birth. Many different organisations attended these meetings but the library always score very highly on the evaluation from new mums. A good percentage of these mothers are then bringing their babies to story time and the newly introduced lap sit program

Northumberland Network

After 4 years running the program, there is still 100% cooperation from community partners in regard to distribution with Health Dept Speech Therapists coming on board in 2009.

Nowra Family Support (Dept of Housing)

One service provider has been very successful in targeting indigenous families living in Wreck Bay and also through the Aboriginal Women's Health Centre in Nowra.

Port Stephens Council/Family Action Centre C4C

- The Let's Read packs are always well received. Parents are delighted with the books and children clutch their packs talking about reading the book at home.
- Together with the other Early Literacy initiatives of Port Stephens Library there has been a noticeable growth in awareness of importance of reading to children 0-5 years.
- 14686 books were borrowed from the library by enrolled Let's Read Children throughout 2009.

Richmond Tweed Regional Library (Lismore Let's Read)

The Let's Read program continues to make an impact on our community in Lismore and we aim to make the program as fresh and inviting as possible.

The Indigenous Literacy Day involved Indigenous storytelling at the library where the children and parents were given access to all the materials available for loan. Each child left with a Lismore Let's Read bag, a library card, while parents enjoyed the story time and morning tea.

Uniting Care Burnside – Wyong

- New appreciation by a parent on her son's interest in, and ability to, "read" a book.
- Many parents are impressed by how well their children take to being read to one-on-one. In the workshop setting, parents can share strategies about how they read with their children and talk about prioritising reading as a daily activity.
- The results from developing story time for children 0 – 5 years weekly and encouraging parents to interact with this time plus home reading has had great outcomes. In particular, one mother aged 20, with a child 18 months old picked up a book each week and read words to the child. It was a struggle as the mother had difficulty in pronouncing the words herself. She was comfortable reading in the presence of the community staff and said her partner was helping her to read and recognise the letters so she could read more to her son.

Wellington City Council (Centracare Communities for Children)

One mother used a book as an incentive for four year old to have immunisations as the child was very excited when his 18 month old sibling received his Let's Read package. The child actually asked for his book and yellow reading bag. The other good news story was the report from a Pre-school Director that the children are coming to pre-school with the Yellow Let's Read bag as their library bag.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Tata Family Centre

We have quite a high group of CALD families; it is great to show them that they can read the pictures in their own language if they're having trouble reading the text.

QUEENSLAND

Bribie Island State School

- The excitement generated by distributing special books to new preppies was infectious and many reported going shopping to buy more books or having multiple family members read to them.
- Parent meeting where we were able to talk about reading to your child and the benefits of early literacy exposure.

Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc

The Let's Read program in Toowoomba is now also providing Read Aloud sessions at one local school which has been very well received by teachers and prep children. Over the year volunteers reported a noticeable improvement in the children's behaviour and attention span. This program will be offered to other local schools in 2010.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

City of Playford

One organisation has said last week that the program has just been “life changing”. They think it’s amazing and all staff has embraced it, as have the parents. They are using books to settle their children at bedtime, whilst some are using the DVD to practice/develop their own reading skills. The site is also using the Let’s Read books within their planning and teaching. Building play activities around the book and singing songs.

Onkaparinga Let’s Read

- A foster care family who approached one of the community workers at A Day in the Park were very appreciative of the Lets Read pack. After discussion with the worker, it was discovered that this would be the first book that the biological family would own.
- Hackham West and O’Sullivan Beach Children’s Centres share a Speech Pathologist who is very excited about Lets Read and has begun using the resource sheets to supplement the take home literacy packs that the children borrow each week. This added resource has increased the appeal of the packs and they are being borrowed more frequently than before.

Port Pirie

- Tiny Tots team asked the children to choose a book from the box and have their parent read to them. It was fantastic to see the interaction with parent and child and sometimes parent with more than one child all listening to “Mum or Dad reading”. The place was certainly a buzz but was great. Some of the children had more than one story read to them.
- The parents are using the books to settle their children at bedtime, whilst some are using the DVD to practice/develop their own reading skills.

VICTORIA

Bendigo St Lukes

- The Let’s Read delivered by Maternal and Child health nurses has achieved an excellent coverage. The 12 months rollout commenced in March 2009 as the 2nd phase and is achieving an excellent take up rate,
- The 3 ½ year old is serviced by playgroups, mainly school based. Let’s read strategies are modelled during strong time as part of the playgroup sessions. Of significance is that the playgroup at St Liborius was judged by Playgroups Victoria as the playgroup of the year.

Community Hub – Colac (Colac Otway Shire)

- The Sudanese families have greatly benefited from having the Lets Read DVD to assist them read along to their children. It is often difficult to engage the parents directly with their children; however this has been a great tool as the parents see their improvement with literacy as a benefit.

- In a group setting, young Mums enrolled to study lessons to watch the DVD together and gain some insight into making reading fun – when it wasn't for them as children. Watching them then read to their children at the groups was delightful.

Corio Best Start / City of Greater Geelong

- Rosewall Bethany/Best Start Playgroup Comments
 - Parents commented that 'Let's Read' reinforces to them the value of reading to their children. The different styles of reading make it fun and helps build their confidence to read.
 - The younger children join in when the parent is reading to the older children and watching the DVD.
 - Very grateful to have such a valuable resource. Sometimes parents don't know where to go to access these resources so it is wonderful to get them through the playgroups and kindergartens.
 - Children in the playgroup recognise the books at playgroup that they have received though 'Let's Read' and love the connection of 'my book'.
 - Parents enjoy going to the Corio Library and seeing 'Let's Read' books on the shelf there-makes the visit feel familiar and linked to other aspects of their lives in the broader community.
 - One dad whose literacy skills are very low who is having more regular access to his little boy commented how the DVD is really useful to him. His little boy is very active and together they can sit and listen and have fun with DVD rather than the little boy getting frustrated when his dad trying to read the book to him.

- MCH Outreach-City of Greater Geelong Comments

My 2-3's are usually enthusiastic after I have read the book to them, and explained to the parent that the DVD is a tool for them rather than a DVD for the children's entertainment – S. -Early Parenting Educator, Outreach Team-MCH

- North Shore/Norlane Kindergarten Comments
 - Parents "absolutely rapt" about receiving the books.
 - The Kindergarten teacher provided an information session for the parents and children and also set up the entrance with a display-the DVD running as parents arrived in the mornings.
 - Parents 'very interested' in the DVD and 'very excited' to get a new book.
 - One mother reported back that 'her little four year boy didn't like reading but since having the DVD and his own book he wants to read it at least three times each time they sit to read'.

- Corio Bay College Family Centre- Case Study

H. a staff member in the family centre provided a session where she was demonstrating the 'Let's Read' DVD and the parents (16 year old dad and 17 year old mum) had brought along the dad's 13 year old brother. This brother often cared for the parent's one year old son.

The parents were engaged in the demonstration but it was the 13 year old boy (uncle) who completely delighted the group with his enthusiasm. He started to mimic the presenters on the DVD and the one year old child responded to the uncle's animation. This encouraged the uncle to continue reading the book and also elicit this wonderful interaction between uncle

and baby. “This is great” the uncle said and continued to read the book and interact with the child for 30 minutes, also entertaining everyone around him.

The staff member commented that it was clearly evident what joy the uncle and baby were receiving from the DVD and the book. The 13 year old boy was genuinely surprised how much enjoyment he was having from reading and how responsive the baby was to him.

The staff member said it was one of those moments that she will always treasure in her working life.

Kilmany Uniting Care Wellington Shire

- Mother attended the Koori transition to school day and reported to a Lets read tutor that they have changed behaviour in the house in the morning before school by reading rather than having the television on. This has assisted with being ready for school on time, younger children out of the busy time. The family reading together daily.
- Another mother of an indigenous child reported that her son had settled better at kinder because he had been able to share a book and understood that reading time means quiet, sit and don't play other games at this time. When his Lets Read book was presented at kinder he told the teacher “to turn the pages carefully”.
- Father from the Pitstop program reported that he had used Lets Read as part of his reconnecting with his children after separation; he uses books and the library as a way of providing activities for the children that don't cost too much money during access visits. He has noticed that the children can do quiet things while he is attempting to read the paper.
- On Koori day in the park, the children put down the travel rug and the older children, six year olds, started reading the younger children.

Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh/Moorabool Shire Council

- Feedback is received from parents in the form of a survey including comments when they receive their Let's Read Packs. Comments are overwhelmingly positive, and include indications of changes in behaviour to benefit children and their literacy learning. Parents have also indicated that the wider family unit, including siblings and grandparents have also benefited from the program.
- The program has encouraged the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh to also provide indigenous titles to aboriginal children attending Maternal and Child Health checks.
- Maternal and Child Health Nurses have also been provided with a small number of tactile board books for distribution to families of children with special needs, to encourage reading with books that have a multi-sensory focus.

Wyndham

WLS partnered with VICSEG to present "*Multilingual Story times*" at the Children's Picnic. While the children were occupied with the story times, the staff took the opportunity to talk to parents about literacy and numeracy using the Let's Read posters as a guide. The day was extremely successful with 7000 children attending the Picnic and the library distributing 200 free library bags to children.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Armadale Community Family Centre

- J was a member of her local library but had not attended since having a child (aged 3 years) due to concerns about her child making noise in the library and destroying the books. Whilst delivering the Lets read packs, the community staff explained to her how friendly the children's librarians were and how they promoted families in the library and were aware that young children may chew on books and rip pages, so they replenished books on a regular basis. The staff also explained about the family rhyme times and story times held at the library and J decided to join her library and take her child. She is expecting her second child in a few months and will endeavour to read to her baby from birth.
- C received the Let's Read pack for her 12 month old son. She was very eager to tell the community staff that her son LOVED the Dear Zoo book. He loved opening and closing the doors.
- D received the Dear Zoo book for her 12 month old daughter. She had wanted to swap books as she already had the book at home but changed her mind as her original book did not have the lift flaps, and the Let's Read one did, which gave her another way of sharing books with her child.
- Let's Read packs were delivered to families at an Indigenous playgroup. The family information forms showed that of the 16 families, only 2 were members of the library. And only 1 thought the best age to read to a child was under 1 year. Hopefully by receiving the packs and literacy message these statistics may change.
- Let's Read packs were delivered to a speech therapy group at a local playgroup with a high percentage of Indigenous and low socioeconomic families. The family information forms showed that of the 12 families, none were members of the library and they all thought the best age to read to a child is 2 years. Hopefully by receiving the packs and literacy messages these statistics may change.

Broome Library

The successful trips up the peninsula were a highlight. This year we added a few other places to visit. The Rehab Centre, the new Drs Surgery and increased the number of books distributed from 3 to 5. Everyone was extremely grateful.

Gosnells Early Years Group (GEYAG)

- The Bonding with Books launch was sponsored in part by Centro Maddington shopping Centre and books were provided by Allen & Unwin (20), Scholastic (140 books) and Lifetime Distributors.
- Based on the findings from the parent evaluation of the BWB Story Time Launch, roughly 95 per cent of the parents surveyed said that their child enjoyed the day and all of the parents surveyed enjoyed the session themselves. Regarding an improvement in knowledge of appropriate books to read, 14 out of the 20 parents who answered the question identified an improvement, four had no improvement and two were unsure

No parent surveyed identified a loss of confidence in reading to their child after the session and 13 parents (59%) acknowledged some type of increase in confidence and nine identified no change.

- In determining the current reading practices of the parent, it was found that every parent surveyed reads to their child at least once a month, with 19 parents (86%) reading to their child daily and two reading weekly. All parents surveyed agreed that reading to their child is important with 20 parents (91%) strongly agreeing. Out of the parents surveyed, 21 stated they would come to another session and one parent was unsure.

Kwinana Early Years Services

- At the Bertram Primary School Transition to School day, the Lets Read program is presented. At the end of the delivery a dad approached. He said he did not know how to read so he could not read to his kids. A suggestion was made that as his children were young, the stories can be made up by looking at the pictures. He is reassured that Lets Read is not about teaching the children to read but more about encouraging and supporting a love of books and strengthening family bonding.
- A dad who participated previously at the Kwinana Active Parents (KAP) program, run by the Kwinana Recquatic, approached and was so pleased to share that his young son loved his Dear Zoo book so much that he insisted on being read that same book every night and after that he would cuddle it like a teddy and sleep with it.

Mirrabooka C4C/Playgroup WA

- Literacy Links Community Conference on 12 March 2009
The Conference was held to increase the knowledge of early literacy strategies. It was attended by a wide range of people including child health staff, early childhood professionals, librarians, parents and community members. Approximately 60 people attended the conference. It was a great event with very positive feedback from the surveys completed. Most people stated that the event exceeded expectations and that they really valued the key note speaker's information and the literacy activities provided. The local libraries set up stands promoting their Story time and Baby Rhyme time sessions. Staff from the State Library and Better Beginnings Program attended to talk to parents and professionals about the project and choosing appropriate books for young children.
- Feedback on the Professional Pack provided to Child Care Centres.
The staff loved the books. Tip sheets were provided for the age group rooms and the children request that those books be read more often.
The younger children enjoyed the lift the flap books and looking at the bright pictures while the older children can talk about the books they've got and enjoy the stories in them.
- Quotes from Parent Surveys.
 - *Fantastic session – Children loved it and parents did too!!*
 - *Thank you for making a big difference in the lives of my day care children (family Day Carer, Westminister)*
 - *The workshop taught me that it's better to read to children earlier, the earlier the better.*
 - *[I learnt] How to have fun with literacy.*

Shire of Exmouth

- Story Time is held weekly on Monday mornings at 9:30am. There is a core set of parents and children who consistently attend, as well as a set of parents and children who attend a few times per month, depending on work schedules and other circumstances. Story Time has proven to be a valuable time for both children and parents. The children are quite engaged in the stories, asking questions, guessing what might happen next, pointing out details in the story and illustrations and the subsequent craft. Often the children will ask to take the book home with them or to have it read to them again. A point is made of taking photos of the children with their crafts and hanging them on a display window. The children love seeing their photos up in the window and take pride in their individual craft projects.
- While the benefit to the children was a planned and expected component of Story Time, the benefit to the parents has been a pleasant surprise. Many of the parents know each other quite well, and spend time socialising and setting up play dates for their children. The biggest benefit, though, is to new parents in town. When a new parent comes along with their child, the other parents are quite welcoming and offer up information and advice – from a parent’s perspective on the range of child services available in Exmouth. In a highly remote and isolated community such as Exmouth, this kind of connection is invaluable.

g) Sustainability

Details any future funding that Let's Read communities are seeking, or any plans/adjustments to the program which will sustain it into the future.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Beachside Family Centre/ Umina Public School

There is a slightly different borrowing system to work in with Family Day Care. At this stage there are enough Baby Book Bags to give away but in the future we will be looking for businesses/individuals to sponsor a Bag to the value of \$12.

Farmborough Road Public School (ILLAWARRA)

Families NSW committed an additional \$15,000 slippage funding to the Illawarra Let's Read Project for 2010.

Macquarie Regional Library C4C

Received funding from the Dubbo Early Childhood Committee to continue the Early Literacy Bag program for the next 3 years.

Northumberland Network

Funding from a local business will need to be gained in 2010 to ensure sustainability for the future.

Nowra Family Support (Dept of Housing)

The Let's Read program is a fantastic resource but back-up resources are needed from The Smith Family to assist communities in delivering the program. For example is to cover the increased cost of resources. The Let's Read Kits now cost approximately \$43.00 per bag. In comparison they were \$33.00 when the project commenced two years ago. Unfortunately in NSW, the State Government have not provided funding for Co-ordinators as in Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria.

Port Stephens Council/Family Action Centre C4C (SCI)

- A NSW State Library Development Grant received in 2008 has enabled Let's Read to be extended into 2010.
- Possibilities of funding from local business and community clubs are currently being explored.

Richmond Tweed Regional Library (Lismore Let's Read)

Currently there has been no new sustainability for the Lismore Let's Read program although Richmond Tweed Regional Library received an extra \$20,000 from Communities for Children. In 2010, there's a plan to expand the Let's Read Program in to the Ballina area by seeking funding from new business in the area.

Uniting Care Burnside – Coffs Harbour

- Coffs Harbour City Library is applying to Coffs Harbour City Council for a recurring \$5000 per year to fill the gap with new parents.
- Application to Newcastle Permanent Building Society was submitted but not accepted we are applying again in the next round of funding for \$50,000 in order to be able to disseminate Let's Read to all children 0-5 in Coffs Harbour as a one-off event.
- There is possibility of employing someone to seek funding for the program.

Uniting Care Burnside – Parramatta

The person who was in charge is no longer coordinating this program in Parramatta and no one else has stepped forward to do so. It is believed there will be ongoing positive effects from the previous three years, but they have not been able to be sustained in an organized manner.

Uniting Care Burnside – Taree

Funding is available until June 2012 to deliver the Engaging Dad's program though delivery of the program is not the core work of the community. The program encompasses promotion of reading enjoyment for both children and adults alike. The community also work in partnership with the Greater Taree City Library to promote the delivery of Let's Read program.

Uniting Care Burnside – Wyong

- New Steps Home Visiting program is ensuring all team members are trained in "Let's Read" with the intention of delivering it to EVERY family.
- Warnervale Family & Community Centre would like to include more research information for parents to link the importance of early learning with their future educational achievements.
- Ann endeavour to source funding for the Let's Read program for 2010 and introduce the groups is presently running.

Wellington City Council (Centracare Communities for Children)

The program will be re-funded for the next three years with approximately \$13,000 worth of funding received. The program will follow previous guidelines with Wellington Community Health and Wellington Aboriginal Community Health Service dispensing Let's Read books to families in the local government area.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Moulden Park/Gray Child Care Links

Links program has allotted a portion of the budget to deliver Let's Read in 2010. Links workers found it a great tool to engage with Indigenous families who were reluctant in the past to engage with service providers.

Tata Family Centre

Hand out of the books will continue, and then will look into accessing funding to continue to deliver the program.

QUEENSLAND

Bribie Island State School QLD

- All groups will order earlier in 2010 to ensure supply of books in time for enrolment meetings for the 2011 classes.
- Funding will be via Parents and Citizens Association or other community bodies committing to long term support in the public sector and by building the cost component into fees in the private sector.
- Long term day care is coming onboard in 2010/2011 to cover the 12 months group, so there are 4 months remaining with community nurse, 12 months with daycare, 18 months with kindergarten and 3.5 year plus with Prep.

REACH Program (Mundubbera)

Have held a Steering Committee Meeting (March 30th) to discuss the future of the project. To get more volunteers on board is necessary, people who may have contact with the target group families. There is a plan to set up stands again at the Under 8's days in May to help to promote the importance of Literacy in early childhood. There are a number of new playgroups starting up in the region where it will be the focus, however need to get some support to complete training with new volunteers. Funding may be a problem! There is a need to look into possible funding submissions to obtain more books and resources. Many contacts with new families have been made in the five towns of the North Burnett and it would be great to be able to get these resources out to those families.

Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc

- We will continue to provide packs to new families as well as follow up existing families with support from the local community.
- Meetings are being held between Toowoomba North Let's Read and indigenous workers to get the Deadly Readers (Indigenous Let's Read) program back up and running again.

Townsville Library Services

Townsville City Council currently receives funding from a local business to provide the Let's Read packs. This is a three year commitment and will be reviewed shortly.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

City of Playford

- In 2010 there will be a strong focus on training community professionals who work with the Aboriginal community and there is a hope to include two key Aboriginal sites in Playford;

Muna Paiendi Primary Health Care Service and Kaurna Plains CPC. Both sites have expressed a keen interest to be involved in the new year. Furthermore, there is a need to train staff from the Migrant Resource Centre to deliver the program to the ever growing new arrival population in The City of Playford. Whilst more DECS sites will become involved in the program throughout 2010. This has sparked interest from DECS head office who was asked by Jay Weatherill, Minister for Early Childhood Development, to write a report on the program (after seeing a story in The Advertiser about the program) and how DECS and The Smith Family could work together to implement the program in DECS CPC sites across SA. DECS drafted and put forward a strong recommendation and is currently waiting for confirmation.

- The idea was to start the program with a new, fresh approach the following year, plus term 4 is a very hectic/busy time for most schools/CPC sites/organisations and they all wanted to give the program the time/effort it required seeing that they were selected as the first sites to roll the program out in Playford. An important factor for other sites to consider – term 4 may not be the most ideal time to arrange a launch/commencement of the Let's Read program. However, the slow start needs to be commended. It shows that each site is taking the program seriously and wants it to work. Some sites are taking the path of targeting families, whilst others are implementing the program in their parent groups and playgroups.
- Moving forward will emphasise the importance of selecting the right staff to receive the Let's Read training. Managers who don't work 1:1 with the families aren't the ideal community professionals to have trained, even though they would like to find out more and want to experience the training; it's a waste of time/money as they will never find the time to deliver the packs to parents. So will look into another way to explain the program in more detail to these senior staff members. The online training that's currently being developed will be a great help in overcoming obstacles like this, plus it will allow consistency across the country.

Onkaparinga Let's Read

- The name of Lets Read Hackham West has changed to Lets Read Onkaparinga, this is to include the other TSF communities which we work in within the council area, also by changing the name of the program to match the City of Onkaparinga it will increase the chances for funding by local council. The steering committee has been reformed with members from key agencies within the three communities of Hackham, Morphett Vale and Christie Downs, who are meeting bimonthly to work together on joint funding possibilities.
- Many of the partnering agencies have begun to change their ideas around Lets Read and are incorporating the resources into their budgets instead of expecting TSF staff to provide all the resources, this has been a significant shift in attitude to the program.
- All agencies involved are excited to talk as a group about what they are doing with Lets Read individually and sharing ideas about ways they can add value to their literacy curriculum.
- Evaluation is taking place with a 3 monthly follow up survey given to families after receiving a pack.

Port Pirie

- There is a possibility to train further professionals to become program deliveries within the local community. Child and Youth Health and Port Pirie Regional Health Services workers are keen to be trained, as deliveries for the program in 2010.
- Some of the focus will be on training a community professional, who works with Aboriginal families through pre-schools, Aboriginal Health Services and Aboriginal Community Centres.
- Let's Read community shared books will continue to be loaned to local play groups held at Kindergartens and other early years services. These books will be utilised throughout the year in group sessions.
- The Learning Together at Home program is taking the path of targeting families. There is a plan to implement the program into their parent groups and playgroups after term 2, this year.
- We will continue to encourage program support and involvement from local council, pre-schools and other agencies in Port Pirie.

VICTORIA

Bellarine Community Health (City of Greater Geelong)

- Successful strategies from the Best Start Rosewell Let's Read Program will be utilised in the Portarlington 3223 area.
- In 2010 the "Let's Read" project will be marketed in more community locations. Parents will be receiving the message from more professionals and community members. It will be promoted on radio, primary school, posters.
- A wider dissemination of the books will occur (200 books). Parents in the Portarlington community will hear about the Let's Read program wherever they go, such as the library, community playgroup, preschool and primary school.
- The new facilitator of Let's Read on the Bellarine Peninsula has a long-term aim of ensuring every child under 6 has a book read to them each day.
- A storyteller will be recruited from the community members and will be invited to read books in a variety of locations.
- Increased awareness of the mobile library, where to get cheap books, recommended authors will be included. Emphasis will be placed on the evidence for reading and its link to literacy and academic achievement.

Bendigo St Lukes

- Sustainability continues to present a challenge to those implementing the program. Careful management of resources has ensured viability in the short term and other avenues of support are being explored. The take up by the community has been most encouraging and the playgroup strategy is impacting positively on school readiness.

The support of local strategy through Communities for Children has had a positive impact. The source of funding has been extended for two years but the strategies to be implemented and the community partners to deliver them are yet to be identified.

- The identification of Eaglehawk as a site for a pilot program under the Extended Partnership Program can provide the framework to ensure that Lets Read can continue to grow as an integral component.

Casey - Cardinia Library service

This year some funding has been acquired through The Hunt Club Community Fund.

Community Connections – Warrnambool

2009 would be the final year Community Connections VIC (Ltd) would be part of the Let's Read program.

Community Hub – Colac (Colac Otway Shire)

Future funding will be sought throughout 2010 with partnering agencies so that this program can be delivered at a community wide level. There is a new library being built to be opened in 2010 and it is hoped that at the launch of the new facility the Lets Read program can be promoted as a community program.

Corio Best Start / City of Greater Geelong

- DEECD Barwon South West Region has funded the delivery of Let's Read for a 12 month period July 2009- June 2010 for delivery across the City of Greater Geelong.

Project Scope Inclusions:

- Provision of financial support to the existing Lets Read programs in Corio and Portarlington.
 - Introduction of the Let's Read program into the suburbs of Bell Post Hill, Bell Park, Whittington and Grovedale.
 - Targeting families with pre-school aged children through relevant service delivery points (e.g. MCH Centres, playgroups, etc).
 - Extend Lets Read program in the areas identified above for a period of 12 months and/or subject to the limits of available funding.
 - Evaluation of the delivery of Lets Read into new areas.
 - Assessment of the future sustainability requirements of Lets Read in targeted areas.
- Community Grants Shell, Corio

The applications for the Community Grants from Shell will be submitted at the following intakes:

- 31 March 2010
- 31 October 2010

East Gippsland Community Health Service

The resources that were purchased using funding from the previous financial year would be distributed through MCH services and local libraries. No community development has been done, no further funding. No evaluation has been carried out in year 2009.

Kilmany Uniting Care Wellington Shire

- A submission to FACSIA has been made for further funding for Lets Read via Local Answers funding.
- The maternal child health nurses have included Let's Read resourcing in the 2010 budget at the local hospital, with boxes of books that are available to the families.
- Letters requesting funding have been sent to the local service clubs & business community about how they can help Let's Read by donating money for future resourcing (outcome due end of May 2010).
- Lets Read tutors have volunteered time for community events with the RAAF welcome to the area day.
- Lets Read tutors will be available to hold a stall at the Children's Week celebrations across the region.
- Books are being donated for children in care for birthdays and Christmas, even those outside the target age groups.
- Case managers at Kilmany Uniting Care are now training Lets Read tutors, so they could have reading discussions with families as they present to the agency and check at home visits that reading is taking place

Mornington Peninsula Shire

- Added Hastings site to service agreement.
- Embed rosebud activity in Rosebud West Early Years Plan.
- Continue to develop action plan with Hastings Site.
- Work with Centre of Community Child Health to trail enhancements to Hastings Site.

Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh/ Moorabool Shire Council

Provision of funding for the next 2 years has been received from Moorabool Shire Council and the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh.

Wyndham

The Wyndham Library Service is currently in discussion with the Maternal Child and Health nurses to identify funding opportunities to continue the programme.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Armadale Community Family Centre

- Local businesses have been approached to request sponsorship by way of funds or products that can be used to support the program and/or enhance the program i.e. providing extra books to distribute at literacy promoting events when the Let's Read packs are not being delivered. However to gain the support in this manner is unsuccessful.
- City of Armadale Community Grant.
Grants of up to \$1000 are available to local organisations. Due to the popularity only a smaller grant of \$800 received to purchase more Let's Read packs.
- Due to being unable to get further funding, the program will finish at the end of June 2009. The original grant came through Lotterywest however it does not fund ongoing programs.

This is a very disappointing finish to the program as it was so eagerly embraced by the community with 33 local volunteers now trained to deliver the Let's Read packs. There are so many more volunteers in the community interested in being trained and so far there is only one training session. Armadale is a very high needs area in terms of literacy as the recent AEDI results have shown. The number of children reached has only been a fraction of those that targeted to receive the packs and the literacy message.

Also the aim of the program is to repeat the literacy message to families more than once, but as the program only ran for one year, there is inability to follow up with future packs for the children as they grew through the age groups of the packs.

- Application to Woodside for a grant was just made to continue the program for another 1-2 years. If it is successful, the grant will not be secured until January 2010.

A Smart Start – Central Great Southern

- An application by YMCA for sustainable funding of A Smart Start has been submitted to Royalty for Regions.
- Outcome will be known on 30/6/10

Broome Library

There will be more outlets to supply and an increase in both resources and funding would be needed. Broome Library looks forward to being a part of distributing the resources and sharing the message of the importance of early literacy to the community.

Gosnells Early Years Group (GEYAG)

Further sponsorship may be sought. Early Years Grants (<\$2000) may be sought from the Department for Communities for resources.

Kwinana Early Years Services

- Have contacted the local book store to source discontinued lines at a much cheaper price.
- On the plan for 2010 is for KEYS to approach Rotary Clubs and Department for Communities for donations.

Mirrabooka C4C/Playgroup WA

No longer play as the community partner for Let's Read in Mirrabooka since July 2009.

Shire of Exmouth

Due to staff changes in 2009, not all of the funding provided by Chevron was used by the anticipated end date of October 2009. Chevron has agreed to allow the funds to roll over to 2010, which has enabled the Lets Read program to continue until 30 June 2010.