

Information Flyer

Let's Read endorsed services: A pilot with Goodstart



Poor literacy skills are linked to poorer health and life outcomes. Even before children start school, they are building the foundations for reading and writing. By introducing children to books early in life and reading with them regularly, parents and educators set children up to arrive at school ready to learn.

What is Let's Read?

Let's Read is an early literacy program that promotes the importance of reading with children from birth.

Let's Read is based on research that demonstrates the importance of early literacy promotion. It draws on the best available evidence about ways to engage families and enhance early literacy promotion.

What is the Let's Read endorsed services pilot?

Let's Read endorsed services will work to improve literacy outcomes for children across Australia.

Goodstart is partnering with Murdoch Childrens Research Institute to pilot *Let's Read* endorsement in 15 Goodstart sites across Victoria. The pilot will build on the 2012 National Year of Reading and Goodstart Early Learning's social inclusion objectives.

The pilot will work with early childhood educators to promote their important role in literacy and language development and ensure educators have the skills, support and resources to engage with children and families in emergent literacy and the activities that promote it.

What does the pilot mean for my service?

Services will undergo two phases to become *Let's Read* endorsed services: completion of the Let's Read Training Program and completion of the endorsement accreditation.

Phase one: Let's Read face-to-face training

Let's Read offers three-hour face-to-face training. The training will enable participants to successfully deliver early literacy messages to parents and primary caregivers.

Let's Read training supports educators to increase their familiarity with the *Let's Read* framework and builds confidence to talk with families about early literacy.

Phase two: Let's Read endorsement

In Phase two, *Let's Read* pilot sites will be supported to develop programs and policies that engage with children, families and communities and promote the importance of early literacy activities such as reading, singing and nursery rhymes.

Let's Read endorsement will assist services to meet quality reforms by focusing on all elements of the National Quality Standard (NQS), with a particular emphasis on relationships with families. The initiative will also support services to demonstrate elements of the *Early Years Learning Framework* (EYLF).

Once your service has completed the two phases of *Let's Read* endorsement, you will be provided with a suite of resources, such as newsletter items, book lists and posters.

The Australian Government is working in partnership with the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and The Smith Family to deliver Let's Read.

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What is the evaluation process?

A process, acceptability and feasibility evaluation of the trial will be conducted concurrently with the pilot. Evaluation will be conducted on:

- Stage one: participants' evaluation of the training on completion
- Stage two: participants' evaluation of the endorsement accreditation process after successful accreditation.

The evaluation findings will be used to inform:

- future online Let's Read training
- future Let's Read accredited training (towards a Nationally Recognised Qualification in Early Childhood)
- national rollout of Let's Read Endorsed Service initiative.

The *Let's Read* endorsed services pilot will be launched on the 7th September 2012 and training will follow in October 2012.

Figure 1 below illustrates the pilot process and outlines each key task. In addition to the evaluation stages, the key tasks categorised in red are those that require participation from Goodstart pilot participants, whereas those in blue are delivered by the Centre for Community Child Health.

Figure 1. *Let's Read Endorsed Service: Goodstart Pilot process*



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