

Let's Read Community Annual Reports Summary  
2008

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## Let's Read Community Annual Reports – 2008

The Let's Read Community Annual report (2008) 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 March 2009. Thirty nine Let's Read communities submitted their 2008 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 outlines the following outcomes:

- (a) Children who received Let's Read resources in 2008
- (b) Children to be targeted in 2009
- (c) Community involvement
- (d) Community activities promoting early literacy
- (e) Highlights & Challenges
- (f) Case studies/good news stories
- (g) Sustainability.

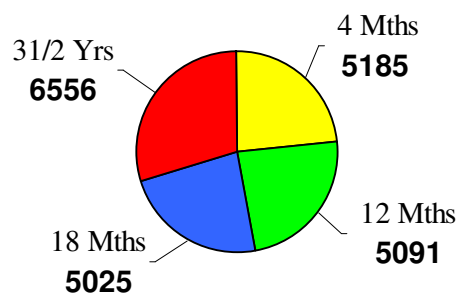
Those communities who submitted an annual report for 2008 are as follows:

No.	Comm.ID	Community Name	Community Area	State
1	NAT56	ACT Play Groups/Inner North - Northside	Ainslie - Inner North	ACT
2	NAT3	Uniting Care Burnside	Coffs Harbour	NSW
3	NAT4	Macquarie Regional Library C4C	Dubbo	NSW
4	NAT37	Northumberland Network	Cessnock	NSW
5	NAT42	Port Stephens Council	Raymond Terrace	NSW
6	NAT64	Nowra Family Support	Nowra	NSW
7	NAT67	Beachside Family Centre/ Umina Public School	Umina	NSW
8	NAT111	Richmond Tweed Regional Library	Lismore	NSW
9	NAT118	Fairfield Communities C4C ( Learning Links)	Fairfield	NSW
10	NAT153	Farmborough Road Public School ( Illawarra)	Unanderra	NSW
11	NAT8	Wellington City Council	Wellington	NSW
12	NAT7	Uniting Care Burnside	Parramatta	NSW
13	NAT112	Katherine Rack Project	Katherine	NT
14	NAT160	Tata Family Centre	Karama	NT
15	NAT11	C & K (Inala to Goodna) Mission Australia	Inala	QLD
16	NAT102	Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc	Toowoomba	QLD
17	NAT115	Thuringowa Library Services	Upper Ross	QLD
18	NAT75	Port Augusta	Port Augusta	SA
19	NAT140	Salisbury Communities For Children	Ingle Farm/Salisbury	SA
20	NAT127	Good Beginnings	Gagebrook/ Brighton	TAS
21	NAT20	Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh (Moorabool Shire)	Bacchus Marsh	VIC
22	NAT21	Corio Best Start / City of Greater Geelong	Corio	VIC
23	NAT25	Doveton (Good Beginnings)	Doveton	VIC
24	NAT26	East Gippsland Community Health Service	Bairnsdale	VIC
25	NAT33	Community Connections - Warrnambool	Warrnambool	VIC
26	NAT34	City of Wodonga	Wodonga	VIC
27	NAT53	Bendigo - St Lukes	Bendigo	VIC
28	NAT95	Casey-Cardinia Library Service	Cranbourne	VIC
29	NAT125	Bellarine Community Health	Portarlington	VIC
30	NAT138	Mornington Peninsula Shire	Mornington	VIC
31	NAT148	Glastonbury Child & Family Services	Eastern Geelong	VIC
32	NAT35	Mirabooka C4C / Playgroup WA	Mirabooka	WA

No.	Comm.ID	Community Name	Community Area	State
33	NAT55	Kwinana Early Years Services	Kwinana	WA
34	NAT85	Gosnells Early Years Action Group	Maddington/ Gosnells	WA
35	NAT103	Broome Library	Broome	WA
36	NAT131	Shire of Exmouth	Exmouth	WA
37	NAT147	Armadale Community Family Centre	Armadale	WA
38	NAT124	Wyndham ( DHS Funding)	Wyndham	VIC
39	NAT87	Playgroup WA – West Pilbara Early Literacy Proj	West Pilbara	WA

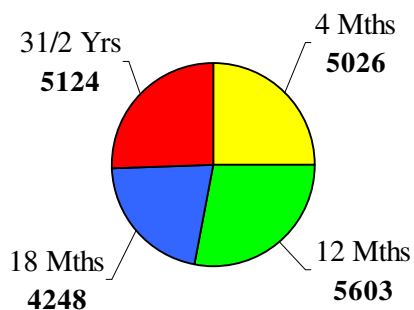
### (a) Children who received Let's Read resources in 2008

#### Number of children reached in 2008



### (b) Children to be targeted in 2009

#### Children to be targeted in 2009



## © Community Involvement

- Municipal Library **28** communities
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse families **17** communities
- Indigenous and / or Torres Strait Islander families **21** communities

## (d) Community activities promoting early literacy undertaken this year

### Beachside Family Centre/Umina Public School NSW

- Launch of 'Let's Read' program. A small number of children and their families (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) attended. A story was published in the local Peninsula News
- Conducted a 'Storyline in the Park' activity. Professionals and Community members (Indigenous and CALD included) read to children at different reading stations. Approximately 300 children and families attended. A story was published in the local Peninsula News
- Produced a 'Let's Read' bookmark for Father's Day with the words 'dads who read put their kids in the lead' and with information on the back explaining why it is important to read with your children

### Northumberland Network, Cessnock NSW

- Conducted 'Storytime' activities at 2 public libraries where 'Let's Read' is promoted. 30 families participated

Advertised the 'Let's Read' program on plasma screens in various shopping centres

### Fairfield (Learning Links) NSW

- Held four 'Storytime with Dad' events at a local library. Involved shared storytime for fathers and their children to promote early language and literacy development. Storytellers shared stories with the families. A total of 129 children from 0 – 5 years received Let's Read resources including a recommended book and tips sheets
- Have delivered the Let's Read program to a range of Preschools, Long Day care Centres, Playgroups and Transition to school programs. More than 700 children were reached

### Farmborough Road Public School, Unanderra NSW

- Launched Let's Read program at Wollongong City Council. 50 children and parents from the Noogaleek Aboriginal Childcare Centre and local supported playgroups attended. More than 50 services supporting families with children 0 – 8 years were also represented at the launch. Media coverage by the Mercury newspaper

### Nowra Family Support NSW

- Nowra Church of Christ held a family camp where Let's Read shared box of books was used in the crèche. Approximately 30 children participated by having the books read to them by older children and adults
- Weekly Families Connect Playdate. Let's Read books are on display and used each week for reading time. New families receive their own resources

- Over 23 volunteers trained in Let's Read visit their assigned family on a weekly basis
- A volunteer made a special reading cape and floor mats to be used at reading times and participating children came to recognise that a book was about to be read

Let's Read has been located in the local S.O.S food store. A volunteer speaks to targeted families about the program

### **Macquarie Regional Library, Dubbo NSW**

- Worked with the Dubbo early Childhood Committee to provide a variety of activities including, the delivery of early childhood literacy bags to all newborns in Dubbo. Bags included Let's Read book and DVD
- Assisted and had a 'Storytime' tent at the 'Kids of Heart' Festival
- Developed an 'Early Childhood' collection of resources at the library for use by the community. Created a pamphlet to publicise the program and promote the material

Speak to 'New Mums' groups every 6 weeks to emphasise the importance of developing literacy from birth and reinforce the Let's Read material provided in the baby bags

### **Port Stephens Council – Family Action Centre NSW**

- Visited local playgroup and provided literacy session modelling reading to children for parents. Average of 10 children attending
- Held a Let's Read party, a celebration of early literacy. 50 Children attended and each received a pack for the forthcoming age group
- Held a Let's Read party, a celebration of early literacy. 48 children attended
- Held seven 'Dad's Twilight Storytime' throughout the year. On average 10 fathers and 34 children attended
- On a weekly basis visited local families, reading and lending books. 27 families participated and 43 children involved

### **Richmond Tweed Regional Library, Lismore NSW**

- Promoted Lismore Let's Read at Community events including, Family Fun Day at Lismore Wade park
- Deliver Let's Read in the 'Dad's Daycare' program. Support fathers in recognising the importance of reading and telling stories to their children
- Promote Lismore Let's Read on Richmond Tweed Regional Library website
- Promote the Let's Read program at the local Maternity ward of the Lismore Base hospital

### **Uniting Care – Burnside NSW**

- Introduced the Let's Read program in a number of local supported playgroups

### **Uniting Care – Burnside, Parramatta NSW**

- A range of non- Government welfare agencies distributed Let's Read kits to disadvantaged families. Many of the kits were funded by the NSW Govt. 'Brighter Futures' program

### **Wellington City Council (Centacare Communities for Children) NSW**

- A reading corner was set up at the Wellington Family Easter Egg Hunt, held at a local park. 48 families, 73 children, 43 adults and 3 local service providers attended
- A reading corner promoting Let's Read was set up at the annual Wellington Show. 9 families attended
- Held an Early Literacy Day at Nanima Village, a small Aboriginal community. Children were able to enjoy variety of activities, including painting a mural. 3 local service providers attended
- A reading corner promoting Let's Read was set up at the Noah's Ark Playgroup garage sale
- Held a 'Bag-a-Book Day & More' day at the local Macquarie Regional Library. This was a 'Birth to Kinder' event supported by the Wellington Early Literacy Committee. Approximately 20 families attended
- The local Macquarie Regional Library participated in 'National Simultaneous Storytime' event. Approximately 20 families attended
- A reading corner was set up at the Wellington PCYC Centre to celebrate 'National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day'. 29 families, comprising 45 children and 29 adults and 4 local service providers attended
- Held a 'Transition to School Storytime' at the local Macquarie Library
- A reading corner was set up at the Wellington Children's Week Celebrations- Teddy Bear's picnic'. 48 families, comprising 73 children and 51 adults attended

#### **Katherine R.A.C.K Project NT**

- Created a television advertisement titled 'Impartja' to be broadcast during children's hours over a 3 month period. 170,000 potential viewers
- Conduct weekly reading activities by 2 mentors at each participating site involving children and parents
- Launched RACK program at various sites
- Conducted 2 Let's Read training sessions
- Held 2 activities with Indigenous Focus Group (10 people) for feed back on appropriate stories for DVD training resource. 6 new language stories produced

#### **Tata Family Centre, Karama NT**

- Launch of Let's Read program, 33 families, the local Member of Parliament and local School Principal attended
- Set up a Let's Read book corner with literacy posters in the local library
- Held a Christmas Party, all children who attended were given a book as a present

#### **Inala to Goodna QLD**

- Held a 'Stories on Saturday' workshop focusing on fun and creative ways to promote literacy and cultural inclusion for children 0 – 5 years. Among the professionals who attended were 60 early childhood personnel. Media coverage by community newsletters, posters, flyers and emails
- Held 'Inala to Goodna Parent and Child Expo' Among the professionals who attended were representatives from 30 local services. 200 children and parents attended. Media coverage by the Satellite newspaper, flyers, emails

- Held workshop presentation for C&K – Creative ways to promote and encourage emergent literacy. Among the professionals who attended were 16 early childhood personnel. Media coverage by C&K training calendar

### **Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc., QLD**

- Held a Family Fun Day during Family Week . Over 100 people attended and Let's Read information packs were provided to appropriate families. Those in attendance included; a number of professionals, local schools and community workers. Media coverage was by the local community newspaper
- Held a number of Information sessions throughout the year for professionals, parents, service clubs and schools. These were successful in raising awareness of the Let's Read program and fund raising

### **Thuringowa Library Services QLD**

- Launch of Let's Read program in the Northern Beaches area. Library staff, funding sponsors and playgroups attended. Media coverage was via local Sun newspaper
- Held an event in the local park in the Upper Ross area, incorporating Storytime, Baby Rhyme Time and Let's Read

### **Port Augusta SA**

- Hosted a reading tent at the Communities For Children Family fun day, involved story time and activities and the distribution of information and packs
- Hosted a reading tent at the Aboriginal Family Services fun day, involved story time and activities and the distribution of information and packs
- Manned a sausage sizzle and information stand at the National Families Week in the CBD. Involved the promotion of Playgroups, Kindergarten Literacy Packs, the local library and the Let's Read program
- Commencement of the Davenport Playgroup, a collaborative partnership with the Early Years Parenting Centre (A Communities for Children initiative). held every fortnight to promote and develop literacy skills, support families in recognising the importance of reading and telling stories to their children
- Held a Community based Professional Facilitators training session
- Involved in the Davenport Community Christmas celebration with an emphasis on Let's Read/EYPC Playgroup families
- Involved in the Port Augusta Community Pageant

### **Salisbury Communities for Children, Ingle Farm SA**

- Established a 'corner' in the local library dedicated to Let's Read resources
- Introduced the 'Lapsit' program in Para Hills Family Zone, Ingle farm Playtime and Ingle Farm Hub
- Multi-organizational involvement in the Let's Read launch
- Held workshops in literacy with Young Mums group and Emergency Accommodation clients

Commenced a 'Jump Start to Reading' group at the Ingle Farm Family Zone

### **Good Beginnings Gagebrook/Brighton TAS**



- Held Fun Day Campania. 4 professionals and 15 children attended. No media coverage
- Held J.R.S Festival, professionals from many organisations involved. 300 children attended. Media coverage by the Brighton newsletter
- Launched 'Grow and Learn' program, 10 professionals and 30 children attended. Media coverage by the Mercury newspaper
- Held 'Communities for Children Fun Day' at the Brighton Civic Centre. 400 children attended. No media coverage
- Held 'Stories under the Stars' event at the Bridgewater P.C.Y.C. 200 children attended. No media coverage
- Held 'Hobart Mental Health Expo'. 500 children attended, Media coverage
- Held 'Old Beach Fun Day'. 200 children attended. No media coverage
- Conduct an ongoing Let's Read Borrowing Library program. Participating families utilise borrowed books at Gagebrook Primary School and Outreach Play and Learn groups

### **Bellarine Community Health, City of Greater Geelong VIC**

- Had an article published in the local newspaper promoting the 'Let's Read' program
- Held a Focus Group to assist with evaluation of program. 7 children and 14 parents attended

### **Bendigo – St Lukes VIC**

- Participated in the 'Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival –Family Fun Day' at Canterbury Park. Approximately 3000 people attended, Story reading was modelled and 'Let's Read' balloons distributed
- Participated in the 'Bendigo Easter Fair' parade. Children reading as part of the 'Child Friendly City' float
- Participated in the 'City of Greater Bendigo – Kids Character carnival'. Approximately 5000 people attended, Story reading was modelled and 'Let's Read' balloons distributed
- 'Let's Read' launch at Comet Hill P.S. Attended by 3 adults and 7 children. Later joined by 23 prep children. Story reading was modelled and 'Let's Read' packs and balloons distributed
- Participated in the 'Community Literature Festival' Approximately 500 students, aged 0-7 years from playgroups, preschools and schools in Eaglehawk attended. Featured 'Galosh the Gnome' (storyteller), 'Heidi Ho' (musical entertainment) and Glenda Miller (local author). The festival involved a story telling session and then groups went to local businesses where secondary college student hosted the reading of big books. Each group went to two different shops. The groups then went to Canterbury Park for a sausage sizzle provided by Eaglehawk Rotary. All children received a 'show bag' with a book and giveaways and a 'Let's Read' balloon

### **Casey - Cardinia Library service, Cranbourne VIC**

- My Early Book Art Display. 3 Early years workers including; a librarian, speech pathologist and council worker visited local child care centres and read their favourite books. Children were then encouraged to paint their favourite book onto canvasses. 150 children participated and their paintings were hung at the Cranbourne library. Families were invited to attend and view the paintings, Storytime followed with snacks and show bags
- National Simultaneous Storytime. Over 1000 children participated in this event. Resources allowed participating groups to receive free copies of the book 'Arthur'
- Story Corners. Books and book cases have been placed in Doctor's surgeries in Cranbourne to encourage reading and language in every day experiences. Some books donated by The

Smith Family have been used to supplement this activity. The book cases are rotated within the community on a three monthly basis

### Community Connections – Warrnambool VIC

- 1<sup>st</sup> Parents Groups ongoing. Victorian Government ‘Young Readers’ Program (gift certificate) for 4months and 2 year old age groups

### Corio Best Start – City of Greater Geelong VIC

- The Outreach Librarian Project, a partnership between Geelong Regional Library Corporation and Rosewall Best Start Project, concluded at the end of Term 2. 7 Primary Schools, 4 Kindergartens and 3 Playgroups in Corio, Norlane and North Shore were involved. Term 2 involved visits to the local Corio Library for all these universal services
- Geelong Regional Library Corporation appointed a Children’s & Youth Services Worker to be based at the Corio Library and to actively support ‘Let’s Read’
- Held a Community Festival in Corio with an attendance of approximately 500 people. 100 ‘Let’s Read’ kits were distributed
- 435 new births were recorded in the MCH Centres located in Corio
- The Young Readers Program in Norlane and North Shore targeted both 4 months and 2 year old age groups
- Corio/Norlane ‘Let’s Read’ delivered 350 kits to the 12 months old age group, targeting the Northern Suburbs Playgroup Network
- Thanks to Shell, 9 Corio Playgroups were each given a selection of high quality children’s story books (40 books in each resource box) to be incorporated into the children’s program. The Playgroup facilitators attended a ‘professional development’ session conducted by ‘Let’s Read’. Over 200 families will benefit from this initiative
- The Corio Pram Stroll was held during Children’s Week and over 50 families attended. 50 ‘Let’s Read’ resource kits were distributed
- Held a meeting with local partners to plan 2 projects for 2009 as follows;  
Fun/Play Day with a focus on early years literacy  
Welcome to Corio Baby Project with early years literacy and Library promotion

### City of Wodonga VIC

- Conducted a number of Neighbourhood Storytelling and Activity sessions. Organised by Council and run by volunteers. The average number of children attending was 20
- Held a ‘Todos Arte’ event, celebrating art and literature. 200 under 5 year old children attended
- Held a ‘Teddy Bear’s’ Picnic, involving storytelling and activities. 50 children attended
- Held an evening ‘Storytelling’ event in the library. 50 children attended
- Held a ‘Book Week’ celebration
- Held a ‘Spring Storytime’ event, involving a professional storyteller, plus arts, craft and information. 150 children attended
- Held a ‘Summertime Storytime Wind Up’ party
- Conducted a ‘Book Under Every Tree’ activity, whereby donated books were distributed to disadvantaged children over Christmas
- Delivered 50 ‘Literature Packs’ by the ‘enhanced home visiting nurse’ for disadvantaged families throughout the year

### **Doveton (Good Beginnings) VIC**

- Held a 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party celebration - 15 children, 13 parents and 4 staff members attended
- Held another 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party celebration – 13 children, 14 parents and 3 staff members attended
- Conducted a 'Let's Read' promotion in the 'Playgym' playgroup – 17 children, 15 parents and 2 staff members attended
- Conducted a 'Let's Read' promotion in the 'Play and Learn' playgroup – 17 children, 17 parents and 2 staff members attended
- Delivered books to each child enrolled in Prep for 2008

### **East Gippsland Community Health service VIC**

- An Indigenous Mum's Group, run by Allied Health at GLCH, attended the East Gippsland Shire Library 'special story time'. 6 mothers and their children, aged between 0-5 attended. The group held an indigenous themed story time, followed by a craft group. Indigenous books were distributed to the children in attendance ]
- The Young Pregnant and Parenting Group (YPP), which consists of mothers under 21 years is run by GLCH weekly in Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance. The group has held several Let's Read sessions with story time and packs handed out to the attendees. 6 – 8 mothers attended with children aged 0 – 2 years
- A GLCH staff member attended the Paynesville Kindergarten and Childcare Centre and provided Let's Read training to staff. 100 3 1/2 year packs were distributed to local children
- The Maternal Child Health (MCH) nurses hand out Let's Read packs with age appropriate books to mothers and their child during their regular 12 month MCH check up. Information on services provided by the local library and tips sheets are enclosed in the packs

### **Glastonbury Child and Family Services, Whittington VIC**

- Held weekly library reading sessions. 20+ children 2 – 5 years attended
- Held weekly 'Come and Play' reading sessions performed by volunteers and directed at children 6mths – 5 years

### **Bacchus Marsh VIC**

- Held a 'Let's Read Community Literacy' event in which local primary school children 5 – 8 years, community members and younger children were invited.
- Let's Read was promoted through the Moorabool Council information table and displays at 2 local events

### **Wyndham VIC**

- Held numerous Storytime and Rhymetime sessions at the 2 local Municipal Libraries
- Held a Literacy Festival promoting Early Learning

### **Mornington Peninsular Shire, Rosebud VIC**

- Launched Let's Read program for the Rosebud area
- Provide Let's Read training at Rosebud Library

- Library services established a Let's Read area within the Library and incorporated Let's Read into the regular story time sessions
- Sent Transition packs to 5 schools for distribution to children at the start of their school year
- Placed Community Share boxes at Waterfull Gully which are used by 4 supported playgroups

### **Armadale Community Family Centre WA**

- Held a 'Let's Read' stall at the local Kelmscott show, advertised the program with posters and pack displays. Made contact with over 100 children, distributed 65 pamphlets, took 20 contact details and gave out 90 second hand books
- Held a 'Let's Read' stall at the Memorial Park as part of the 'Little Tot's' morning for 'Children's Week'. Advertised the program with posters and pack displays. Made contact with over 30 children, delivered 28 'Let's Read' packs, took 4 contact details
- Conducted the first 'Let's Read' training session for community members at the local Council offices. 21 people attended, 19 from the local area.

### **Broome Library WA**

Board book delivered to every mother and her newborn at the Broome Hospital. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday clubs are held monthly. Library packs are given to parents. Library membership is encouraged. 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday club children are given a choice of which books they prefer. Guest speakers include; Child Health Nurse, Speech pathologists and Dieticians.

### **Gosnells Early Years Group, Maddington WA**

- Launch of Let's Read program, approximately 40 children and 50 adults attended. Media coverage by Comment News, a local community paper

### **Kwinana WA**

- Communities for Children supported playgroups at various local primary schools targeting children 3 years. 39 packs distributed
- Held an Under 5s fun day at Kwinana Recquatic Recreational Centre targeting children 0 – 5 years. 41 packs distributed
- Held a 'KEYS' playgroup targeting children 0 – 4 years. 12 packs distributed
- Held a 'Let's Read' Literacy Day event at Kwinana Shopping Centre targeting children 0 – 4 years. 20 packs distributed
- Held a Kwinana Children's party targeting children 0 – 5 years. 55 packs distributed
- Held Kwinana Community Festival targeting children 0 – 5 years. 24 packs distributed
- Held a 'Communities for Children' Farmyard Day at Kwinana Early Years Services targeting children 0 – 5 years. 42 books distributed

### **West Pilbara, (West Pilbara Early Literacy Project) WA**

**N**

- Held Let's Read training sessions at Karratha, Tom Price, Wickham and Onslow
- Held a 'Picnic in the Park' at Tom Price promoting Let's Read. Approximately 90 children, parents and carers attended
- Held a 'National Mothering Week' morning tea at Karratha promoting Let's Read. Approximately 50 children, parents and carers attended

- Held a 'Playgroup in the Park' at Roebourne promoting Let's Read. Approximately 35 children and 20 parents and carers attended
- Held 2 'Playgroup in the Park' events at Onslow promoting Let's Read. Approximately 25 children and 15 parents and carers attended over the 2 events
- Held a 'Nameless Festival' at Tom Price promoting Let's Read
- Held numerous 1 – 1 sessions with families throughout the various towns and communities of the West Pilbara Region. Some of this was done with the assistance of Community Health Nurses

### Mirrabooka (C4C/ Playgroup WA) WA

- Attended Community Christmas events organised by Mission Australia and Anglicare. Set up literacy activities and provided comfy Storytime areas to enable parents to read to their children. Spoke to families about the Let's Read program . 100s of families attended
- Held a Literacy Links Community Conference to increase the knowledge of early literacy strategies. Approximately 60 Community members, parents and professionals attended. Several local libraries set up stands promoting their Storyline and Baby Rhyme time sessions
- Held weekly Parent Information workshops at local shopping centres. Distributed Let's Read/Literacy Information packs to the public
- Playgroup WA (PGWA) introduced a Literacy Activity Component at all PGWA events. This involved setting up an optimal reading environment

### Shire of Exmouth WA

- Held the first Let's Read training session involving 10 educational and health professionals
- Launch of Let's Read in the form of a Teddy Bear's Picnic. 53 children and 43 parents and a number of professionals attended. Media coverage was via the Northern Guardian and the Exmouth Expression newspapers
- Books purchased from the Let's Read recommended book list were made available for loan via the Exmouth Library and the Exmouth Toy Library

## (e) Highlights and Challenges

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

### Armadale Community Family Centre WA

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The children are receiving good quality books.</li> <li>▪ They will enjoy the quality time spent by family members reading to them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The parents are shown the importance of reading and sharing books to their young children even at the earliest of ages.</li> <li>▪ They are encouraged to make time to read to their children at least once a day.</li> <li>▪ They are shown achievable ways to promote language and literacy in the home even if the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Armadale Community Family Centre has supported it's playgroups by delivering the Let's Read packs to them. Information given out with the packs also promotes Armadale community Family Centre and other local services to families.</li> <li>▪ A lot of local members of the community that come in contact with young families were very interested in the program and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For some this will be their first introduction to books.</li> </ul>	<p>parents themselves have low literacy levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are given information about other community programs that would be suitable to their families.</li> <li>They are given information on how to share books with their children at different ages and how to make books available to their children even if money is tight, through libraries, second hand books shops etc.</li> </ul>	<p>many came to our first training session, and put in orders for packs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challis Primary School Early Childhood Centre has a very high proportion of families of indigenous background, CALD, and with low literacy levels.</li> <li>They have been very supportive of the program and sent 6 staff members to the Let's Read training to enable them to deliver the packs to all families.</li> <li>They are very dedicated to Early intervention and feel that Let's Read is a great program to help promote early literacy.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtaining knowledge of where to get the Let's Read packs from. As we have only been delivering the packs since October we have not done a lot of promoting of the program as yet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the packs are delivered on a one to one basis this can be time consuming. This affects when and where the packs are delivered. I.e the number of families attending community events makes it difficult to deliver the packs unless a lot of trained community members were involved.</li> <li>In groups where the numbers of families are high the time taken by trained staff to deliver the packs is too large for some agencies to take part. i.e. the local health nurses have chosen not to deliver the Let's Read packs due to time constraints. Although they would be a terrific venue to deliver the packs to a large proportion of the community, especially at the 4 month and 12 month age groups.</li> </ul>

### UMINA PUBLIC SCHOOL NSW

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baby book bags ( with DVD) given to babies of families in target group by Early Childhood Nurses and other professionals so getting message out about reading from birth.</li> <li>The setting up of a borrowing system of Let's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents have DVD for use as children get older. Parents able to borrow while at supported Playgroup or when attending other programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service Providers across Government and non-Government sector are working together in a consistent way with Let's Read.</li> <li>They are receiving additional resources to give to their families.</li> </ul>

	Read books in order to ensure sustainability of resources.		
<b>Challenges</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluating the program when it is using a borrowing system. We have a baseline survey and evaluation form to measure change in behaviour.</li> </ul>

### BROOME LIBRARY WA

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As well as the wonderful feeling I get from delivering these resources it is certainly a way to bridge the gap and make people aware of what Broome Library can provide. A day without a book is not worthwhile.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ My role as Deputy manager is varied and time consuming with many different roles and responsibilities. If I could add another 24 hours to each working day I would be able to devote more time to this worthwhile program.</li> <li>▪ So far the biggest challenge is accessibility to remote communities and being time poor.</li> </ul>

### CORIO BEST START GEELONG VIC

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The absolute joy of books that the children enjoy. The growing confidence of parents reading to their children and the bonding that happens during book time together.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The slow but gradual increase of parents commenting that they are attending the local library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The links and networks established between the various organisations and professionals. The professional development that has been embedded through the initiatives and actions of the Let's Read Project.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To truly embed the link with families and the local library. The families living in Rosewall still find it difficult to get to the Library as the public transport route is not direct.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presently collecting some survey evaluation from parents through the Northern Suburbs playgroup Network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To Sustain funding beyond 2009.</li> <li>▪ Addressing the needs of parents with low literacy skills Ensuring effective evaluation processes are implemented to identify key outcomes and benefits.</li> </ul>

### NORTHERN UMBERLAND NETWORK CESSNOCK NSW

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 100</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 80</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local preschools are approaching us to be involved</li> </ul>

<b>Challenges</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Change of management at auspicing organization although there is no change to delivery of program.</li> </ul>
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### CITY OF WODONGA NSW

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Very busy in 2008 with our Storytime Anytime program that includes Lets Read. Wodonga families becoming very aware of what we do and participating in our events very well. We have a high rate of parents returning children for their check ups at MCH knowing that they receive their Let's Read packs there.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Major sponsor pulled sponsorship for 2009. So we have had to reorganise our distribution of Let's Read for 2009 and combine it with the Young Readers program.</li> </ul>

### DOVETON NORTH FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE VIC

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The benefits to the children have been that they enjoy, the interaction, the attention and the stories – prompting the words and joining in the sounds and actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The parents have benefited from gaining confidence in reading to their children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The benefits to us have been that we are able to engage with more families and find incorporating the Let's Read principles a natural process.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No particular challenges</li> </ul>		

### FAIRFIELD COMMUNITIES C4C NSW

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children receive a free book to enjoy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents receive tips on book sharing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The program has allowed us to educate parents and hand out resources to families so they can continue to practise the book sharing skills at home with their children.</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We have seen many families more than once, which means they have received multi point delivery of the Let's Read messages.</li> <li>▪ Through delivery Let's Read resources in local baby health care clinics, our access to young babies has increased in other areas of our program.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Selection of books for children is limited and not always appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tip sheets are very adult directed accessing translated tip sheets for parents.</li> </ul>	

### FARM BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL ILLAWARRA LETS READ NSW

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Up to 400 children have benefited from parent's increased awareness of the benefits and the pleasure of sharing books.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Up to 400 parents in the Illawarra have received Let's read packs and one on one information on sharing books with their children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Services are participating in the delivery of Let's Read in the Illawarra which adds value to what they are already doing with families.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reaching children who will benefit most from increased access to books and shared reading time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accessing parents who do not currently read to their children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maximising number of services participating in Let's Read in the Illawarra.</li> <li>▪ Many agencies have a high turnover of staff which means that new staff require training before they can deliver Let's Read.</li> </ul>

### GLASTONBURY CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES, Whittington VIC

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opportunity to have access to books.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Being able to spend time with their children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Better links with other local service providers.</li> </ul> <p>Being able to support families without impacting on our own limited budget (childcare centre)</p>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the child care centre the 4yo children were envious of the 3yo who received books.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents limited literacy skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cuts and ending of funding ceased the facilitator and has limited the project at this stage.</li> </ul>

**GOOD BEGINNING GAGE BROOK /BRIGHTON TAS**

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good Beginnings provide a Lending Library to Gagebrook Play &amp; Learn families. Also take a lending library to Outreach Play &amp; Learn at Broadmarsh and Tea Tree. This offers the opportunity to model borrowing habits with isolated families. – Children’s increased literacy skills through the availability of a lending library.</li> <li>▪ Sharing the role of the parent in reading books regularly to children under five years. Revisiting this important issue and discussing with families the joy of reading books.</li> <li>▪ Many isolated families have had Let’s Read presentations through Home visits in remote areas. These families would not have had access to the books if not for home visiting. Some families use the borrowing system during home visits.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of transport in this area – limits the amount of families coming to our program for the Let’s Read presentations. Distributing many vouchers in the community through events and school newsletters but many families have not attended our program because of isolation and distance to travel.</li> </ul>

**GOSNELLS EARLY YEARS GROUP, Maddington WA**

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That the kids love getting a book, they come back and ask for more “A child told a staff member” my Dad reads me that book”.</li> <li>▪The children recognise the book they have at home by the display at the centre.</li> <li>▪Helps children to become “school ready”.</li> <li>▪The child receiving one on one attention from their parent while reading with them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Received positive comments from parents when sharing the information on Let’s Read when distributing book. Even patents who are in a hurry at the beginning of the meeting leave appreciative and are encouraged that they can take time out to stop and spend time with their children.</li> <li>▪ Many parents have been surprised to learn that you can read to a newborn.</li> <li>▪ A service has seen whole families sitting in the waiting room reading together.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents are reading to their children. We feel as staff that we are encouraging early literacy. It has been a positive tool for families as some have returned to the service to receive their next book.</li> <li>▪ Gives services the opportunity to discuss home activities and playgroups which are available in the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We have found it difficult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some families were not</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can’t guarantee</li> </ul>

	<p>to get parents to take the time to stop and listen to the Lets Read information. They like the book but do not want to hear what we have to say.</p>	<p>keen to give their young children books because they felt the books will be damaged. And parents said that they take books off their young children because they” stand on them or chew on them” Service providers are informing families that it is ok for this to happen etc.</p>	<p>distribution numbers as contact with parents fluctuate during the year? Roll out is difficult to do consistently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creating new ways of approaching different parents with the program.</li> <li>▪ Being able to track children/families is difficult and makes distribution at ongoing age intervals challenging.</li> <li>▪ On receiving the literature from Let’s Read Huntingdale Primary School was excited about commencing distribution to playgroup families in June 09.</li> <li>▪ Not sure how much the child will be read to after Let’s Read discussion and once the leave the service.</li> </ul>
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## INALA TO GOODNA QLD

### HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

#### HIGHLIGHTS

##### ***STORIES ON SATURDAY***

With a view further increasing the sustainability of Let’s Read Inala to Goodna, beyond the life of the funded project, and increasing the knowledge and skills of service providers around early literacy it was decided to organise a series of workshops. The event was called ‘Stories on Saturday’ and the focus was on practical and creative ways to promote literacy and cultural inclusion for children birth to 5 years. This event was held from 8.30 – 4.30 pm on Saturday 17 May 2008. Whilst the target group was service providers in the Inala to Goodna area, the event was also open to organisations outside the Inala to Goodna area as this was viewed as a valuable way to assist the networking process, assist with the dissemination of the Let’s Read message and increase awareness of literacy across the early childhood sector in general.

The following elements contributed to the success of this event.

- A commitment of funds from other Communities for Children (C4C) projects – (IPEI and REYN) which made the event financially possible
- Parents with other C4C project workers and other organisations in general – this resulted in additional people power to assist in organising the event and ensured people were available to assist on the day.
- Given the demographics of the Inala to Goodna area it was decided there needed to be a wide range of workshops, representing the cultural diversity of the area, for participants to choose from. Additionally the workshops needed to be relevant, “different”, fun’ and full of practical ideas,. The following workshops were offered:
  - Literacy and Pacific Island Communities

- Creative ways to bring books to life through the use of puppets
- Literacy and the indigenous community
- Once upon a time... Afghan Muslim and indigenous perspectives
- How can we help keep our children safe from sexual abuse – positive messages about sexuality, sexual development and safety
- Creative ways to promote and encourage emerging literacy
- Literacy amongst the southern Sudanese
- Playing with Words
- Ghanaian music, song and dance
- Storytelling
- How inclusion Support Agencies can assist your service
- “Stories on Saturday’ was free to all service providers/parents in the Inala to Goodna area and service providers outside the area paid a small registration fee
- The value chosen was a local indigenous preschool, which had an ambience and adequate facilities
- In addition to the workshops there were a range of stalls providing free information as well as products related to literacy and cultural inclusion for participants to purchase
- Morning and afternoon tea were provided and participants purchased lunch from a local caterer of TSI background
- The structure of the day was such that participants had plenty of time to relax, network, talk with facilitators and view the stalls between sessions
- All organisations received information about Let’s Read packs was delivered to a representative from each service. The rationale for delivering these packs was so service providers could use them as a resource for the parents accessing their respective services
- Participants provided feedback about the workshops via a questionnaire. A follow up questionnaire was sent out to participants 6 weeks after ‘stories on Saturday’. One of the questions asked respondents to comment on how they had used the Let’s Read pack and note any feedback from parents.

The main reason for organising ‘Stories on Saturday’ was in relation to sustainability. The focus of ‘Stories on Saturday’ was to increase the knowledge and skills of service providers and parents around literacy and cultural inclusion. The workshops and the Let’s Read packs were the 2 key elements aimed at building sustainability. The skills and knowledge acquired by service providers and parents who attend can be utilised in their daily interactions with children and the Let’s Read packs provided a resource for services to share with parents. This resource is able to be used beyond the life of the project the funded Let’s Read Inala to Goodna project.

### ***Greater awareness of the importance of reading to children from birth***

As per 2007 report, there has been an increased awareness of the importance of reading to children from birth, amongst families and professionals, as a result of the Let’s Read Inala to Goodna project. This is evidenced by the feedback received from parents and professionals, anecdotally and via the questionnaires.

### **Challenges**

#### ***Delivery of Let’s Read packs***

As per 2007 report, this has been an ongoing issue. The capacity of staff and volunteers who have been trained to deliver the Let's Read packs varies. Services experience staff shortages, staff illness, increased workload, etc and often have to delay the delivery of the packs for weeks and sometimes months. At times the delivery moves along rapidly and at other times it is very slow. Monitoring this and supporting services has been a very time consuming process.

### KATHERINE (RACK) PROJECT NT

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<p><b>Benefits</b></p> <p>Introducing reading at such a young age in the communities where access to books is very difficult can only be beneficial to parents and children. Mentors participation on a regular basis has produced greater community awareness of preparatory skills in reading.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 15</li> <li>▪ 26</li> <li>▪ 18</li> <li>▪ 20</li> <li>▪ 20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6</li> <li>▪ 12</li> <li>▪ 10</li> <li>▪ 12</li> <li>▪ 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Barunga Community</li> <li>▪ Binjari Community</li> <li>▪ Jilkminggan Community</li> <li>▪ Rockhole Community</li> <li>▪ Beswick Community</li> </ul>
<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <p>The main challenge would be 'Parent/Carer involvement' but by consistently visiting the communities and building relationships with the families I am extremely confident that this will change and parents/Carers will become more involved with the project and this can only continue to grow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication between communities is also a constant challenge, trying to organise visits can be extremely challenging.</li> <li>▪ Whilst visiting the communities there will often be families in transit and on many occasions we have large numbers of pre school/school aged children participating in the project.</li> </ul>			

### KWINANA EARLY YEARS SERVICES WA

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 360</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kwinana Community Health Kwinana Early Years Services Town of Kwinana Library</li> <li>▪ Monadelphous and Hismelt (Rio Tinto) donated over \$8,000.00 to the Let's Read program for purchasing of resources.</li> <li>▪ The Let's Read committee received an Early Years Grant from the Communities for Children to the value of \$1,000 to the Literacy Day event held in September</li> <li>▪ Marketing through Kwinana Kids monthly newsletter</li> </ul>

			Flyers at community events
<b>Challenges</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The challenge has been maintaining momentum and having the capacity to deliver the Let's Read program to families living within the Town of Kwinana. At one point in time only Keys has been distributing resources. Due to work loads child health nurses have been unable to continue the delivery of the Lets Read message when packs are distributed. This has proved to have less successful outcomes through the Let's Read evolution. Keys has also found it difficult to have ownership as during this reporting period the service was without a permanent Manager for a 6 month period and there were also other staff changes. A new Manager was appointed in March 2008. The evaluation also demonstrated the need for a Coordinator to be appointed to take control and ownership of the program for successful delivery</li> </ul>

### MACQUARIE REGIONAL LIBRARY NSW

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By promoting the library and literacy through the various organisations involved with the Dubbo Early Childhood Committee the popularity of the library has increased considerably. The program has allowed the library to develop close ties with the Aboriginal community and we ensure that every family that comes to the library for a special event is given a Let's Read book. This ensures that books are in families who may least afford this.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Popularity of the children's services program at the library and meeting the literacy needs of children. The storytime program is run 3 times per week, bookings are taken for the term and all three sessions are full within an hour of opening the bookings.</li> </ul>

### MIRRABOOKA C4C / PLAYGROUP WA WA

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The children love the storytime sessions and the books they are provided with to take home at the end of the session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Parents are very interested in the Let's Read Project and the information session provided to them. They are keen to ask questions about reading to their children which in turn give the coordinator the opportunity to pass on key messages about reading to their children from a young age, including babies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The schools and child care centres the books are distributed from are keen to participate in the project. The positive feed back from the staff regarding the Let's Read books, tips sheets and resources provided.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Providing the information to parents in a one on one situation.</li> <li>▪ Limited by the range of books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High turnover of professionals and workers in the venues and centres delivering Let's Read mean</li> </ul>

		<p>available to purchase from the suggested book list. Many families have received books previously for an older child so providing them with a different title has been a challenge.</p> <p>The available books are popular book titles that families already have at home, so once again providing them with a book that they don't already have is a challenge.</p>	<p>that the new relationships have to be formed continually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular turn over of staff who have attended the Let's Read training creates a challenge when you are distributing the Let's Read Materials to families appropriately.</li> </ul>
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### MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE VIC

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5 local Primary Schools engaged Story Time at Library well attended. Launch well attended and community engaged.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Combining Let's Read with other local initiatives keeping the steering group engaged compiling and distributing the transition packs.</li> </ul>

### PORT AUGUSTA SA

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits BookPacks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring access to literature</li> <li>▪ Increased access to developmental activities</li> <li>▪ Parents spend in time with child while engaged in reading activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Many parents had never read to their children and now parents and children are regularly engage in reading activities together</li> <li>▪ Parents interacting more with children</li> <li>▪ Increased self confidence</li> <li>▪ Development of adult literacy skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support to engage clients</li> <li>▪ Resources</li> <li>▪ Networks – strengthened links with other services</li> <li>▪ Training of staff practitioners</li> </ul>
<b>Library Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social interaction</li> <li>▪ Ensuring access to literature</li> <li>▪ Increased access to developmental activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social networks increased</li> <li>▪ Increased self confidence</li> <li>▪ Linkages with other service providers</li> <li>▪ Confidence and support to use community library</li> <li>▪ Recognition of library as a accessible activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support to engage families</li> <li>▪ Resources</li> <li>▪ Networks</li> </ul>
<b>Davenport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring access to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steering committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborative</li> </ul>

<b>Playgroup</b>	literature and developmental <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents spend in time with child</li> <li>▪ Increased access to developmental activities</li> <li>▪ Art and craft</li> <li>▪ Musical activities</li> <li>▪ Sensory activities</li> <li>▪ Story time</li> <li>▪ Physical Health and well being</li> <li>▪ Cognitive and Language skills</li> <li>▪ Social/Emotional developmental</li> <li>▪ Communication skills</li> </ul>	membership created opportunity for parents to be involved in the planning and delivery of this playgroup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nutritional support and information</li> <li>▪ Parenting support</li> <li>▪ Communication skills enhanced</li> <li>▪ Parents spend in time with child</li> <li>▪ Role modelling by elders</li> <li>▪ Group participation</li> <li>▪ Planning and decision making</li> </ul>	development of playgroup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pathway for service providers into community to offer other supports and services</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>			
Evaluation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Difficult to get parents to fill out evaluation forms and verbal evaluation time consuming to inhibited by lack of hours as project officer only working part time</li> <li>▪ Concerns over children damaging library materials and associated expense of replacing goods put parents of using library</li> <li>▪ Transport to attend activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of time to deliver program to clients and follow up adequately</li> <li>▪ Difficult with retention of volunteers</li> </ul>
Low level of literacy among community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimal culturally appropriate literature available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor literacy among parents making it hard to engage then to read to children</li> <li>▪ Minimal culturally appropriate literature available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community struggles with low Adult literacy levels which equates to difficulties with families assisting their children to enjoy literacy. Families have many other immediate life issues to deal with and consequently literacy is given a low priority. Although this is not a key element of the</li> </ul>



			program, it does impact on the expectations of the community on the Project Officer eg identifying opportunities and availability of support for adults
<b>Staffing</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hard to engage parents as there are greater expectations and time requirements not able to be fulfilled in a part time project officer role for working within the aboriginal community</li> <li>▪ A significant and intensive investment of time is needed for working with this unique community to be able to fully implement the vision of this initiative</li> <li>▪ Volunteer parents needed more support again a time restraint for project officer the parent volunteers needed additional support such as transport additional training and confidence building all of which needed a time investment from the busy project officer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Community Partners were asked to assist with the distribution and follow up activities allocate The Community partners found it difficult allocate time to use the resources</li> <li>▪ Short term funding and only having 0.4 allocations of hours make it difficult for the project officer to achieve all of the outcomes and vision for this program</li> <li>▪ Community Partners who are asked to assist with the distribution and follow ups struggled to allocate time to this project. The Let's Read Project officer was also too short of time allocation to adequately service the clients</li> <li>▪ Community partners find it difficult allocate time to use the resources to their full potential</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Library initially seen as a threatening environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimal culturally appropriate literature available</li> <li>▪ Children damaging library materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor literacy among parents making it hard to engage then to read to children</li> <li>▪ Minimal culturally appropriate literature available</li> <li>▪ Transport to access this service was a major problem for the parents</li> <li>▪ Parent concern about damage to library materials and associated replacement costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimal culturally appropriate literature available</li> <li>▪ Transport of clients</li> </ul>

**PORT STEPHENS NSW**

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Highlights</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let's read Packs available throughout Local Government Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All children 0-5 have access to packs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parental awareness of importance to keep reading to children has increased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff do not have to think of each individual postcode</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large number of children participating and wide distribution of packs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All children aged 0-5 benefit from age appropriate packs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parental awareness of importance to keep reading to children has increased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff have built Let's Read into new customer orientation, so that information is now part of the new members "spiel"</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion – Keeping community aware of availability of packs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children miss out on receiving their next pack if the family has moved on or we cannot contact them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of chance to raise awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library staff remembering to inform families ( has been address through new member orientation)</li> </ul>

**ROTARY CLUB OF BACCHUS MARSH VIC**

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing with books from an early age to support early literacy learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided with resources to support literacy development and parenting role. Feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maternal and Child Health Nurses continued support of this program and the value of reading to young children</li> <li>Local library stocks the books on the reading list, as well as Let's Read DVD's</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited range of books has been identified. Where families are attending with their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> child, and the titles are still the same.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty providing adequate range of titles for multiple birth families</li> </ul>	

**SAFER TOOWOOMBA PARTNERSHIP INC QLD**

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
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<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children love receiving their books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and contact with parents has been invaluable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is hoped that through our contact with the families we will have enough interest to start a playgroup at the heights community centre with the next few months.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families move house and this had made follow up more difficult, however 40 children have received their 2<sup>nd</sup> books this year. # have received their 3<sup>rd</sup> books</li> </ul>

### SALVATION ARMY INGLE FORM SALISBURY C4C – NAT140 SA

#### Challenges

- Insufficient planning of Let's Read meant that allocation of the kits was not always accurate, i.e. some organizations received too few kits and others too many but this was addressed over time.
- With follow-up some organizations were noted to have lost the 'momentum' for delivering kits and had to be promoted and reminded to follow through.
- Staff changes – a small number of people who attended the facilitator training moved on to other positions and were unable to deliver the kits.
- Let's read ideally needs the 4-5 years of investment. Although we were able to raise awareness of early literacy as well as hold activities around it, we were really only able to concentrate on the two age groups: 18 months and 3 1/2 years due to financial constraints (limited funding) and time allocated.

### TATA FAMILY CENTRE NT

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being read more</li> <li>The books also can strengthen children's learning, when they borrow a toy of a particular theme, a book can extend on that knowledge and offer evidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better connected with the community</li> <li>The Let's Read' program enhance our library corner, welcoming and informative feature of borrowing books. Promotes the ideas of literacy in a non-judgemental and engaging manner to families who may feel threatened by a more traditional/formal approach. Personal, and engaging. Gives parents and carers information to strengthen the relationship as well as literacy skills with their children. Access to children and families to good quality appropriate books on top of their toys, to borrow as well as keep. The program complements the Darwin Toy Library philosophy of 'making learning fun for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working more collaboratively with other early childhood services and organisations such as Good Beginnings, Play Group Association and The Darwin Toy Library</li> </ul>

		<p>everybody' and that 'parents are children's first teacher's'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bilingual books have been a wonderful asset to our library due to our large group of diverse families. These families have spread the message that we have bilingual books in their first language to their friends, who then come in and join. This recognises that we value their culture and the diversity of what our families bring to our service. Increase in the borrowing of books of our service.</li> <li>▪ More families, those from diverse backgrounds, and particularly fathers, will sit in the library corner and read from the Let's Read books on offer.</li> </ul>	
<b>Challenges</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Many of those families and carer's from the priority group are isolated and find it difficult to access our service due to isolation, poverty and transport difficulties. We are currently working with other services to resolve some of these issues by offering information sessions, and outreach services out of hours with transport support supplied by other agencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To follow up those families to get feedback, or offer next age level, if they leave the service. Due to families work demands, or transient population.</li> <li>▪ Need more bilingual books to meet demands of increasing diverse group of families accessing our service, particularly Chinese-mandarin and Cantonese, Indonesian, Arabic and Vietnamese.</li> <li>▪ Our service is currently exploring new ways to support our Target group of families and carer's by offering out of hours access to our services, including the Let's Read Program</li> </ul>

### THURINGOWA LIBRARY SERVICES QLD

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b> More Library staff trained in Let's Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available from all library branches</li> </ul>		

delivery			
<b>Challenges</b> Multiple organisations distributing Let's Read in different areas with varying funding sponsors			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisations have banded together to ensure Let's Read is available to all children in the Townsville area. Outside funding has been sourced from the local Lions Clubs to make this possible</li> </ul>

### UNITING CARE - BURNSIDE ,Coffs Harbour NSW

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Evaluation emailed to you last year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child &amp; Family Health Nurses now giving out 12 month packs</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal Parents need culturally appropriate packs. African community also need culturally appropriate packs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burnside won't give me any extra funding to expand the program in Coffs Harbour.</li> <li>Medical Practices asking for a continuous-play DVD so they can play in waiting rooms</li> </ul>

### UNITING CARE - BURNSIDE PARAMATTA NSW

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater exposure to early literacy experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of need to read to children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tool for workers to initiate discussion around literacy with in trusted relationship</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing issues with language delays noticeable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing poverty and unemployment of parents impacting on their ability to provide experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic downturn will affect providers' abilities to obtain and provide kits. Also, increase in workload in dealing with practical effects of downturn – increased poverty and unemployment, with related social issues, will dominate into 09.</li> </ul>

### WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL NSW

	Children	Parents	Service Providers / Organization
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children receiving Let's Read Resources have benefited from the provision of a picture story book, which for some, may be the first</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents have been provided with information about the importance of reading to children from a very young age, and the benefits that this can</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This year has seen a number of local service providers all coming together to support and promote the importance of early literacy to parents and carers. By joining</li> </ul>

	one they have received.	have later on in life	forces, service providers have been able to share resources, and complement each other, providing greater support to local families
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assuring all children have access to the Let's Read Program is a challenge faced. Having the Program delivered at immunisation times does help alleviate this issue, however, there may always be someone who misses out.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring parents are provided with information about the importance of early reading to children is a challenge faced by those delivering Let's Read.</li> </ul> <p>The literacy skills of parents is a challenge faced in our community, as some parents/carers have difficulty reading themselves, which makes reading to their children even harder. It is important to provide these parents/carers with alternatives to reading the stories to their children, for example, talking about the pictures is a good alternative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring the ongoing delivery of the Let's Read Program in Wellington is one of the major challenges faced by the service providers involved. The original source of funding for the program ended at the end of June 2008, with other sources of funding needing to be sought. Changes made to the delivery of Let's Read in Wellington had to be considered, with the end of funding through Communities for Children</li> </ul>

### PLAYGROUP WA (INC) , West Pilbara WA

	<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Service Providers / Organization</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The children all enjoy story telling sessions and book making workshops very much. The workshops in particular allow us time to interact with the parents/caregivers and discuss literacy with them. The story telling allows us to role model story telling so parent's can replicate it at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor activities, such as Playgroup in the Park, seem to attract more parents/carers from more diverse groups within the community. We have also found that more people are willing to participate when activities are not held in buildings which may be viewed as the 'domain' of a particular group within the community. Therefore, we have found our outdoor events to be more successful, particularly when engaging with indigenous members of the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have found it very beneficial to work in conjunction with other service providers/organisations within the communities. We have built strong relationships with Child Australia, Australian Breastfeeding Association, Child Health Nurses and Schools, just to name a few</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the isolation of some of the communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The key challenges faced in the delivery of this project throughout</li> </ul>

		<p>we can not be sure when we visit them that there will be parents/carers in our target group present to work with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We have also encountered some resistance, both in communities and towns, from members of the target group to engaging in discussions around literacy and/or participating in events</li> </ul>	<p>the West Pilbara is the size of the area being covered. The huge distances that need to be travelled, the cost of transport and the cost and availability of accommodation have all impacted on the delivery of the program. Another challenge faced is the isolation, particularly of some of the indigenous communities, which has impacted on our ability to deliver the program to these areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further, staff turnover has had an impact on program delivery. Our project Officer left in September and due to the resources boom in the Pilbara we were unable to employ another Project Officer. Therefore we have had to deliver the program on a semi fly in-fly out basis from our office in Perth. This has meant that the program is delivered in short bursts rather than a consistent, on-going basis. It has also meant that networks with organisations and services throughout the West Pilbara have had to be renewed by our Perth staff member who took on co-ordination of the project. Unfortunately this is a slow process but we are making headway.</li> </ul>
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**(f) Case studies/Good News Stories:- Case studies/'good news stories' which highlight particular benefits derived from the Let's Read program in the community**

**Armadale Community Family Centre WA**

- The packs so far have been gratefully received by families. The response to the program by local community members and organisations is terrific with many people interested, in training, in receiving the packs and in getting future training.
- In delivering the packs parents are also receiving information about local services, parenting groups, and playgroups to encourage families to be more involved in early childhood activities. The local libraries are also promoted through the delivery of the packs, with information about what the libraries have to offer and how they work.

**Beachside family Centre/Umina Public School NSW**

- One parent with a 2 and 3 year old has reported proudly that she has joined the local Library and is now borrowing books regularly. The young mums were talking about their favourite books to read and started quoting in unison, work for word, the story from *I Went Walking*.

**Bellarine Community Health City of Greater Geelong VIC**

- 'Evidence received from our Focus Group is that the Let's Read Program has made positive changes for families and there has been an increase in their reading times with their children'

### Bendigo – St Lukes VIC

- 'As a result of the launch of Let's Read in Bendigo (Vic), schools received substantial support from The Smith Family'

### Broome Library WA

- I wish I could add something here about the planned trips up the Dampier Peninsula but as yet I haven't been able to get up there. Many monthly reminders to Child health Nurses continues. I did however have a quick trip down to Bidyadanga recently and was able to give out a few books to the children who were at the Teklecentre, sadly their parents were not with them at the time so I was unable to deliver the message

### Casey - Cardinia Library service VIC

- 'As a parent of four adult children I fully appreciate the importance of this type of project and the necessity that children from all social-economic levels are exposed to programs such as this one'

### Community Connections – Warrnambool VIC

- The information session at the Library provides parents and babies with vital messages from Let's Read as well as their own book in 2009 we have chosen to order books for 12 month olds

### Corio Best Start – City of Greater Geelong VIC

- Rosewall Facilitated Playgroup
- **Case 1** – Mother was telling the Facilitator how her 2 year old child really enjoyed reading the books with her but also how her Prep child loved the books and the DVD and would practise reading to the younger child. The family all started attending the library together
- **Case 2** – A mother who is trying to improve her English, as it is her 2<sup>nd</sup> language, remarked how the DVD has been very useful to assist her reading to her child
- **Case 3** – Many parents remarked that it is 'good' to have a 'new' book rather than 2<sup>nd</sup> hand or from the library. It felt a 'special book' for the child
- **Case 4** – Parents 'discuss' books at playgroup – shared knowledge and healthy discussions

### Northumberland Network NSW

- 'Statistics from our two local libraries show that over the past 12 months borrowing rates of children's books has risen significantly'

### City of Wodonga VIC

- 'In 2008 a research report was written to review *Story time Anytime* and the engagement of children aged 0 to 5 years and their families. The purpose was to learn whether the efforts of City of Wodonga to improve the literacy outcomes of young children had made a difference. I am happy to announce that the results showed that we have been very successful, especially in teaching parents how to be the first educators of their children'

### Doveton (Good Beginnings) VIC



- We often receive feedback from the parents who have received a book, letting us know that their children love the book and request at bedtime and join in with the sounds and actions, from their experience of reading the book at the Centre

#### East Gippsland Community Health service VIC

- Following the Let's Read training provided to the Paynesville Kindergarten and Childcare Centre staff, they have organised a local community initiative called ; Paynesville Story Walk' where the kindergarten children, in small groups, attend various businesses in the town and have a story read to them. This event has been viewed very positively by the local community with many businesses proud of their involvement of promoting literacy among young children

#### Fairfield Communities C4C (Learning Links) NSW

- 'Research states that a large number of residents of the local Fairfield Community are from refugee backgrounds and other backgrounds of hardship. They often do not have the financial resources to purchase educational resources for their children, and some do not have the knowledge and education about the importance of early language and literacy development. The let's Read program has given the Fairfield Community access to FREE education for parents and professionals regarding book sharing and provided FREE books for the children and their families to enjoy. Through delivering the Let's Read program, we have been able to develop and build up relationships with the community and many services within the local community, allowing us to continue to support them in other areas as well as language and literacy development'

#### Glastonbury Child and Family Services VIC

- City Learning and Care – The link is a 35 place child care centre run by the City of Greater Geelong in a very low socio economic area, we have a large transient population, with high unemployment and low language and literacy skills, we currently have 58 families enrolled covering 72 children during a week. The area over the last two years have also had an increase in a number of Sudanese families setting into the area and attending English Classes. The Let's Read packs have been a great success with all of the families we have handed them out to, but the Sudanese families have been especially grateful and enjoy the video. The children have been bringing their books in their bags each day – indicating they are special and they don't want to let them out of their sight

#### Good Beginnings Gagebrook/Brighton TAS

- A family having issues with the sibling of young baby ( jealousy and time management ) After a Let's Read presentation with the Book 'ZaZa's Baby brother, it was suggested this book could be used to help the young child understand sharing the parent's attention. This was a great success and made a big difference to the family's stress levels.
- Dear Zoo – a family mentioned this book as a favourite repetition book to help in developing language skills and a fun introduction to early literacy
- Wheels on the Bus – read as a song in a group setting keeps all children's attention as a fun way to enjoy a book. This is a favourite with many children at our Play & Learn sessions
- Kindergarten Orientation Day 2009 Networking with Kindergarten teacher to deliver Let's Read presentations to families after their orientations. This gave us the opportunity to reach families not involved in our program. We gave out vouchers for younger siblings of these families and invited them to our program. Children of the kindergarten are using their Let's Read bags as library bags.
- During the making of a promotional DVD for Good Beginnings – Let's Read was displayed and parents talked about the borrowing library and the joy their children have from borrowing books on a regular basis

### Gosnells Early Years Group WA

- The best good news story has been the enthusiasm with which Huntingdale Primary School has embraced Let's Read as an initiative of their on-site playgroup. This is an example of a need identified by the community itself rather than it being imposed

### Katherine Rack Project NT

- Family x began to attend in November 08 with 2 children aged between 12 8 months and 3 years. The young mother was functionally illiterate but has participated regularly over the period of the project and is herself now confident to read to her children. She is regularly asking for books to take home and has not missed a session this year.
- Families participating in singing nursery rhymes and listening to 'bedtime' stories within the home.
- Reading mentors have confidently participated in reading to children during the reading groups. Families listening and joining in enthusiastically.
- There is evidence that children who have participated in the project and have since commenced school have found settling into school a lot easier.
- Two children now 4 who began school at the beginning of 2009, and were both actively involved in the Project have been awarded with 'merits' and 'good behaviour' awards. Both families confirmed the benefits of the project had most definitely contributed to their achievements.

### Kwinana Early Years WA

- When chatting to a dad at a Kwinana Literacy Day event held in September, about the benefits of reading to his 18 month old son he mentioned that his son always brought out books in the morning when he was reading the paper with his coffee and he wondered why. The Let's Read Coordinator informed him that he was actually being a wonderful role model for his son by reading in front of him, and went on to explain that children learn through what they see and hear. She then encouraged this dad to have a go at reading story books to his son, which he previously had always seen as 'a mum's job. With a Let's Read pack in hand to take home, the dad expressed enthusiasm, and acknowledgement of new information learnt in regard to the importance of reading to his child. Mornings may now take on a new meaning in that household.
- It is always very rewarding to any service provider to meet with previous clients and see that information shared has been taken on board. At the Kwinana Children's Party held in October during Children' week the Lets Read coordinator handed out a 4 month Lets Read pack to a young couple with an 8 month old baby explaining the importance of reading to children from a very young age. A few months later she ran into the parents at another community event who were very excited to tell her that they had been reading the book previously provided every night to their daughter. The baby who is now 12 months old enjoyed the book so much that she was starting to tell them what animal would be coming on the next page of the story book accompanied by the appropriate sounds. In an effort to maintain enthusiasm, the Coordinator then went on to provide the Let's Read 12 month tip sheet and book suggestion list. The parents indicated that they would head straight to the Library and look for the books on the list.

### Macquarie Regional Library C4C NSW

- 'The Let's Read program has allowed the Macquarie Regional Library to develop close associations with the majority of child organisations in Dubbo. There has been a special emphasis on reaching the Aboriginal community including specific playgroups and new mums groups. It has been about giving parents and grandparents the confidence to read to their

babies, talk to their babies and enjoy the library. Let's Read has given the library the opportunity to expand into areas of the community that had previously not been accessible'

### **Mirraboopa C4C/ Playgroup WA**

- 'Mirraboopa library reports that they have recorded a 10% increase in issues of junior kindy books in the past two quarters. Storytime attendances have also increased to around 23 children per session. They state that they are sure that these increases are due to the fine work being done by the literacy Links/Let's Read project'
- Let's Read is widely recognised in the Mirraboopa Community.
- Quotes from Parent Surveys
- Fantastic Session – children loved it and parents did too!

### **Port Augusta SA**

- Davenport Outreach playgroup. This is a lasting legacy of the Let's Read program as the playgroup will continue under the facilitation of the community partner the EYPC who co-facilitated this with Let's Read.
- Library visits. Families were not using this service before. This has been a successful outcome as families are now utilising the town library

### **Port Stephens Council – Family Action Centre NSW**

- A case Worker from a local organization which supports local families asked the children's Literacy Co-ordinator to arrange a meeting with the librarian to discuss what type of support we could provide to a mother who was anxious about reading to her 3 yr old son. A meeting was arranged and the mother's concern was that she didn't read 'good enough'. She also expressed concern about what types of books she could read to her son. Staff gave the mother the relevant Let's Read pack and talked her through the reading list provided and DVD. They also spoke about the importance of reading regularly to small children. Feedback from the case worker was that the mother is very happy and has overcome her anxiety about reading to her child. She has since been borrowing books regularly from Port Stephens Library for her child

### **Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh (Moorabool Shire Lets Read) VIC**

- In conjunction with the Best Start Project, the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool Shire Council's Maternal and Child Health service will be adding another pack to our literacy handouts. This will be an indigenous book pack with information and an indigenous book. Aboriginal families will be able to receive not only the Let's Read packs, but an additional book with indigenous content

### **Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc (Toowoomba Lets Read) QLD**

- 'On going promotion of the Let's Read programme in the North-western area of Toowoomba has helped spread the program to outer regions of the Darling Downs. With our Support, Oakey State School has received donation of \$1200 to buy resources and a teacher has been trained to deliver the program'
- With the implementation of the State Government-funded LR program on the southern side of Toowoomba, there has been further promotion in the area and renewed interest in Let's Read. This also allows more Toowoomba children to receive packs
- 'Through our relationship with The Smith Family, we have recently set up a Reading with children program at Rockville school. Volunteers have been through an orientation program and are reading weekly with prep children at the school. This has also led to another teacher at the

school attending Let's Read training and she plans to deliver LR to younger siblings of the children who attend the school'

### Salisbury Communities for Children (Salvation Army Ingle Lets Read) SA

- A young mum with her 3 young children ( a set of 2 yr old twins and older sibling ) started attending an Early Literacy program being held at the Ingle Farm Family zone in the second half of 08. Her children were initially disinterested, restless and disorganised. They were being escorted into the hub by a Home Visiting Worker who felt they may benefit greatly from this group. She attended every week with her children and the changes became very clear. She began to show real commitment to the group and her children became really enthusiastic to attend. She was so keen that the group was held over the school holidays and she attended. In the beginning she had been quite withdrawn and shy but as time went on she became more conversational and reactive and she began asking parenting questions and questions relating to literacy. Her children began to show a keen interest in the books and the activities and they themselves were showing significant signs of improvement. They would sit still and quietly and look at books without instruction. The Child and Youth Health Nurse reported back to us a significant improvement in her presentation. In her time with us she and her children responded well to the group offered.

### Tata Family Centre (Tata Family Centre Lets Read) NT

- 'The books and multi lingual resources are a great help to our non English speaking families'

### Uniting Care Burnside Burnside (Coffs Harbour Burnside Lets Read) NSW

- 'The Coffs Harbour Library is currently seeking \$5000 annually to expand the program so that we give it to all parents who give birth to a child in Coffs Harbour'

### Uniting Care Burnside Parramatta (Parramatta Lets Read) NSW

- 'The most valuable part of Let's Read is the time I get to spend with my son and how much he enjoys being read to'

### Wellington City Council (Wellington NSW Lets Read) NSW

- 'The Wellington Fundraisers Inc agreed to fund a set of 100 four month old resources to be delivered locally, and will then, funds permitting, continue to follow this group of 100 children through the next three stages of the program'

### West Pilbara Early Literacy Project (Playgroup WA Lets Read) WA

- While delivering the early literacy information one-to-one in Onslow and Bindi-Bindi, I was lying on the grass reading to three small children in the front yard of one of the homes. The parent of two of the children said that I made it look interesting and the kids really enjoyed listening to me but that she herself was too "shamed" to read in funny voices and wave her hands and arms around like I did. So I asked the children if they would like mum (Aunty) to read one of my books to them and gave her pointers as she was reading. She really enjoyed "acting out" the story and I showed her how to ask the children questions about the characters in the book. I gave her a couple of extra books so that she could have some fun with reading. A real success – one step at a time. Information supplied by our original project officer, Ann Pomery

### Wyndham DHS Funding (Wyndham Lets Read) VIC

- 'Wyndham DHS Funding – The response from the mum's and children who have received Let's Read bags has been extremely positive. The Let's Read bags are an important tool used by the Maternal Child and Health staff to promote literacy and numeracy to caregivers'

**(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*

**Armadale Community Family Centre WA**

- We have approached local businesses to request sponsorship by way of funds or products that we could use to support our 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. So far the local businesses have not been supportive.
- Department for Communities – Early Years Activities Grant. We applied for this grant for \$2000 to purchase indigenous books to distribute at a reconnecting to Heritage day in January 2009. We were successful in the submission and purchased 210 indigenous children's books. We are looking forward to giving these books to local children along with information about where to get the Let's Read packs.
- Future Funding: At this stage our program will finish in June 2009 unless we manage to get future funding. Our original grant came through Lotterywest but they do not fund ongoing programs. During the next 6 months I will focus on how we can get future funding.

**Beachside family Centre/Umina Public School NSW**

- We will be seeking funding for the future purchase of baby book bags. We will be approaching businesses for corporate sponsorship. Also applying to local council for a Community Development grant for Stroytime in the Park which will be run as an annual event. The local bookshop is sponsoring the lucky door prizes. We are also raffling a signed soccer jersey for the Mariners to raise money.

**Bellarine Community Health 9City of Greater Geelong) VIC**

- At this point of time we have not applied for future funding for Let's Read. Our Health promotion team are undergoing a review of what our focus will be with the Early Years

**Broome Library WA**

- We are very happy to continue this program and this year I visited more outlets than last year and left more resources with the organisers. Some remembered me from last year and all were extremely grateful for the books. I would like to see the program continue and look forward to having a variety of new titles to offer it is a wonderful initiative and congratulations all

**Casey - Cardinia Library service VIC**

- Funding for this program will cease on June 2009. The Let's Read funding is currently under review by the Library Service and more information will be known at a later date

**Community Connections – Warrnambool VIC**

- Have been fortunate enough to receive funding from Community Connections Vic (Ltd) to cover the cost of 50% of book costs. (Will be ongoing funding for book purchases each year.)

**Corio Best Start – City of Greater Geelong VIC**

- A new Northern Suburbs Library Reference group will be exploring ways to collectively and collaboratively sustain the delivery of Let's Read in the Corio, Norlane and North Shore community.
- We will be developing plans in the Northern Suburbs Early Years Network Group and the Northern Suburbs Playgroup Network to promote early years literacy through the Let's Read initiative and determine a strategic process to embed Let's Read in all the Preschool and Playgroup programs. This will be linked to the Northern Suburbs Reference Group and the Geelong Children's Early Learning & Education Strategy Group. This partnership will strengthen opportunities for future funding submissions
- **Steps ahead**
- The first practical step will be to have all the Kindergartens, Child Care centres and Playgroups to set up a borrowing system, which parents can access to broaden the number of Let's Read books they can access, similar to what Corio Library has had established for the last three years
- A 'showcase' presentation and celebration to Shell Corio by all these partners about the immediate and long term benefits of Let's Read to the Corio, Norlane and North Shore communities
- We will continue to support and train early years teachers and facilitators through the Let's Read Training and Development

#### **Northumberland Network, Cessnock NSW**

- All of our funding is provided by company donations so we will continue to apply for Community Grants. To this date we have raised \$84,000 and although we have enough funds for the next twelve months we will continue to source further funding. Coal & Allied have appointed a person to the Cessnock LGA, to assist organizations to find funding sources

#### **City of Wodonga VIC**

- Due to our major sponsor pulling out we have combined the Young Readers program to continue to give families the same format
- 2009 4 month young readers DVD along with lets read literature
- 12 month Let's read book and literature
- 2 year Young readers book and Let's Read literature
- 31/2 year Let's Read book and literature

#### **Doveton (Good Beginnings) VIC**

- Finding opportunities are still being explored, nothing specific at this stage

#### **East Gippsland Community Health service VIC**

- Communities for Children will be offering funding in 2009/2010 for projects directed at children 0-12 years of age. GLCH is currently meeting with local primary schools and other service providers to explore what programs they already have running, what ideas they have for future programs and ways that we can collaborate to include Let's Read in a region-wide literacy program. Once this has been established, we will be applying to Communities for Children for more funding to cover the extra services that we hope to provide to the local community

#### **Fairfield Communities C4C (Learning Links) NSW**

- Due to the uncertainty of receiving funding for our PLAT program to continue after June 2009, we developed our own set of tips sheets for sharing books with children to continue to use within the Fairfield community. If funding was not to continue, we obviously would not be able to continue to deliver Let's Read. So we have developed our own sustainable resources for Fairfield
- Many local teachers, playgroup facilitators and child care workers have been part of a Let's Read delivery (i.e. they have received resources and observed and participated in book sharing activities using modelled strategies). Therefore, the strategies modelled have been shared with other professionals, in hope that they will continue to use them into the future along with the resources that they received.

### Farmborough Road Public School NSW

- Families NSW have committed \$1200 slippage funds to continue the Let's Read program. Plans for approaching the business community for sponsorship are currently on hold due to the economic downturn.

### Glastonbury Child and Family Services VIC

- City Learning and Care – are keen to be able to continue to support children and their families with this fantastic resource as I strongly believe that in this low socio economic community it really does make a difference.

### Good Beginnings Gagebrook/Brighton TAS

- The Let's Read program has proven to be very successful with the families involved in the Bridgewater/Gagebrook and greater Brighton area. Good Beginnings are committed to continue delivering the Let's Read Program with continued C4C funding.
- Home visits are an excellent opportunity to take the Lets Read packs into families' homes who may otherwise miss out due to their social isolation. Continue partnerships with service providers including Family Day Care, Kindergarten teacher allowing Good Beginning to run presentations at orientations, CHAPPS nurses' new Mum's group, DHHS Social Worker.
- Good Beginnings is expanding groups in the Brighton area, we are currently forming a teenage Mum's support group which will be another avenue to distribute Let's Read packs. Negotiations are currently underway with the local catholic primary school to provide a supported playgroup with home visiting. Presentations can continue to be conducted at current playgroups at Gagebrook, Broadmarsh and Tea tree, Dad's playgroup at the Riverside Nursery, and Sanity Sessions ( parenting group) at Gagebrook Community Centre and Bridgewater Community Health Centre.

### Gosnells Early Years Group, Maddington WA

- Existing Shell Australia Funding to continue through 2009 to 2010
- There is the possibility of approaching local council or Lotteries WA to seek future funding however, there is limited capacity for current agencies to undertake their own fundraising or seek alternative sources of funding due to the service priorities of those agencies.
- A proposal has been submitted to Shell Australia for additional funding for the Huntingdale Primary School Playgroup.
- **B) Plans / adjustments to the program which will sustain it into the future. Dedicated staffing**
- Let's Read in the Gosnells area needs dedicated staffing to support its development. Longer term the project needs to develop a stronger base of interested community members rather

than relying on the current not-for-profit agencies which are trying to run the program through their services without dedicated staff and on top of their service priorities.

- The initiative in Gosnells grew out of an imposed project relying on the good graces of several schools and community organisations rather than a need identified by the community.
- A properly community based initiative could draw in the talents, time and passion of interested community members who would be able to expand on the broader literacy aspects of the program
- Transitioning over to a stronger community based initiative will take time and needs to be supported by dedicated staff rather than learning for life workers who are already stretched to capacity.
- **Lets Read Agreement** To date there still is no formal Let's Read agreement between the community and Let's Read. This has occurred for reasons described above and due to the fact that each agency has been unwilling to be subjected to the insurance requirements. Concerns about this agreement have been raised at state and national levels a number of times with Michelle Croker attempting to resolve that matter however her best efforts were not able to finalise the matter.
- A question was raised as to whether TSF locally could be the signatory for the agreement however this has not been resolved.
- A more simplified agreement is needed and has been discussed previously with the Let's Read national staff.
- **Training** Reliance on a national trainer from the East coast is inefficient and has hampered the ability to quickly train suitable staff and volunteers. The ability to train people locally and quickly with ratified DVD and other resources would be beneficial. As we understand this idea is in process at national level.

#### Katherine Rack Project NT

- Originally we planned to use online broadcasts to cover our remote sites as travel costs are prohibitive and community priorities often override formal training dates. The use of Katherine School of the air facilities was denied for a number of reasons.
- We would be seeking to expand the success of town based activities by building an online broadcast facility. Additional cost 30k
- Given IP issues with Let's Read resources, we have built independent stand alone culturally appropriate resources and would be expanding this in our second phase. This would require no expansion on the original budget.
- We would view the original budget with CPI adjustments sufficient to sustain the project for a second phase of 3 years.

#### Kwinana Early Years – TSF Communities for Children WA

- Let's Read Kwinana has been very fortunate to receive funding via a small grant application from KEYS to the Community Activity Fund (\$1,000) to commence the position of a Let's Read Coordinator in February 2009.
- From March-June 30<sup>th</sup> further funding will be provided by FACSHIA via The Smith Family to continue with the paid role of the Coordinator.
- Templates have been developed for the accurate recording of data marketing to raise the profile of the program.

#### Macquarie Regional Library C4C NSW

- Funding for the program has now ceased but I am endeavouring to find a sponsor to continue the Baby Bag program.



### **Mirrabooka C4C/ Playgroup WA**

- Regular Reference Group Meetings have been held over the past 12 months. Sustainability is an ongoing agenda item. It has been noted that Literacy Group is useful in the Mirrabooka area and the Reference Group is keen for it to continue into the future. Currently we are waiting to hear about the role out of the new Communities for Children (C4C) Funding. It is desired that the Let's Read strand of the project will continue in the Mirrabooka Area.

### **Mornington Peninsular Shire VIC**

- Currently working with Best Start Partnership to consider the expansion of Let's Read to the Mornington and Hastings area of the Mornington Peninsula

### **Port Augusta SA**

- No further funding for program to continue however the community service providers that have worked in partnership with Let's Read to deliver the packages have indicated that they will continue to focus on early literacy. The Communities for Children committee is also considering the inclusion of funding for this worthwhile program in the next funding round.

### **Port Stephens Council – Family Action Centre NSW**

- Although Shell Funding has now come to end, Port Stephens Library has received further funding through a successful Library Development Grant application. This funding will enable us to continue the program for an additional 12 months, with the possibility of extending even further into 2010

### **Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh (Moorabool Shire Lets Read) VIC**

- The Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool Shire Council have agreed to continue to fund the project for the next 3 years

### **Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc (Toowoomba Lets Read) QLD**

- We welcome donations from the local community. The latest have been from Department of Health, Rotary and Toowoomba Regional Council. To date these donations have allowed us to continue to expand the program as well as to provide follow up packs to existing families.

### **Shire of Exmouth WA**

- Exmouth Early Years Action Group has been approached as a possible avenue for funding from November 2009 to December 2010. The Exmouth Early Years Action Group has accepted a funding proposal to the amount of \$7676.16 to ensure the continued delivery of Let's Read to the Exmouth Community.
- In order for this funding to occur, the co-ordinator position has decreased in hours, from the current 10 hours a week to 2 hours a week. As such, the Let's Read program will take on more of a community responsibility and information session will be delivered to parents on a 1-1 basis through volunteers.
- Future delivery beyond 2010 will be dependant on funding arrangements, however the Exmouth Library is in the process of ordering 2 copies of each book from the Let's Read recommended

book lists to make available for patrons to borrow. These books should be available in the library by the end of May 2009, pending stock delivery.

### **Tata Family Centre ,Karama NT**

- I am seeking funding from the NT Department of Health and Families to continue the delivery of the program over the next three years

### **Thuringowa Library Services (Townsville City Council Lets Read) QLD**

- Have secured funding from a local developer and community organisation to fund Let's Read for the next three years

### **Uniting Care Burnside Burnside , Coffs Harbour NSW**

- The Coffs Harbour Library is currently seeking \$5000 annually to expand the program so that we can give it to all parents who give birth to a child in Coffs Harbour.
- We are planning to hold a reading day at Galambila Aboriginal Health Centre this year, and would really be keen to buy culturally appropriate Let's Read packs.

### **Uniting Care Burnside Parramatta (Parramatta Lets Read) NSW**

- Shell funding will finish at the end of the 08/09 financial year, and is almost all expended. The effects on the local disadvantaged communities have been to expose them to new ideas and a better awareness of the need for early literacy experiences. Just as importantly, it has kept up the focus of local community welfare workers on using their relationship to support the important act of parents reading to their children
- Local services have been contacted with some ideas about sustaining their resource levels eg buying books and setting up book libraries in their supported playgroups, making more contacts with local libraries, and seeking further donations and corporate funding for this area. As I have moved on to an agency-wide role now, I will not be following up on these strategies. However I am confident that local agencies such as the Parramatta/Holroyd Family Support Service will find ways to keep emergent literacy as a significant issue with the local area.

### **Wellington City Council NSW**

- At this point of time, there are no definite plans for seeking future funding of the Let's Read Program in Wellington. It is thought that at this stage, changes will be made to how Let's Read is delivered in Wellington, with the possibility of parents/carers still receiving the information sheets and suggested book lists at immunisation times, funded through the Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service, with parents informed that Let's Read recommended titles are available to borrow from the Wellington Branch of the Macquarie Regional Library.
- Support from the Wellington Fundraisers Inc will ensure that the program will continue to be made available to a group of children over the coming years, and this example may be used to approach other local service clubs to join in supporting the delivery of Let's Read.

### **West Pilbara Early Literacy Project (Playgroup WA Lets Read) WA**

- The communities for Children funding, which has provided the funding for delivery of the program throughout the West Pilbara, is due to cease on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. We are considering establishment of Early Literacy Reference Groups in the 4 key towns in the region, with a view to maintaining a focus on early literacy beyond the end of the project. We will also endeavour to approach local businesses with a view to funding for sustainability proposes.

### **Wyndham DHS Funding (Wyndham Lets Read) VIC**

- Currently under discussion

