

LET'S READ

**Let's Read Community Annual Reports
Summary 2010**

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Let's Read Community Annual Reports Summary 2010

The Let's Read Community Annual report 2010 template was e-mailed to all Let's Read communities (except those sites in Tasmania and Queensland that are government funded) at the end of January 2011. Forty Let's Read communities submitted their Annual Report. 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, taking the time to collect data and compile these annual reports.

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

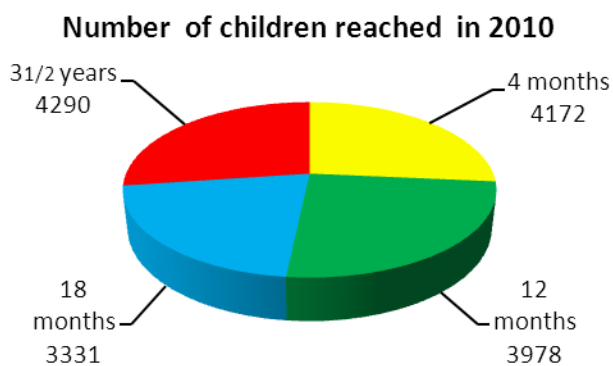
- (a) Number of children reached in 2010
- (b) Number of children to be targeted in 2011
- (c) Community involvement
- (d) Community activities promoting early literacy
- (e) Highlights & Challenges
- (f) Case studies/good news stories
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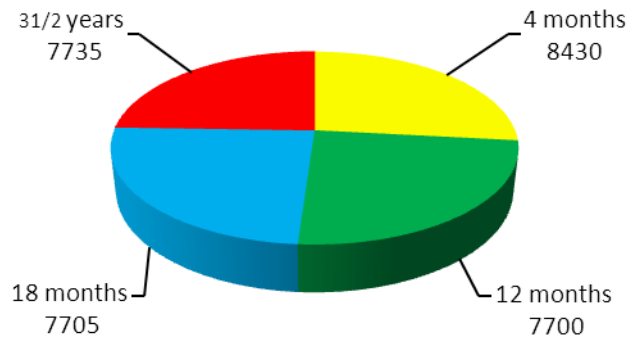
Those communities who submitted an annual report for 2010 are as follows:

No	ID	Lead Agency Name	Community Area	State
1	NAT 1	UnitingCare Burnside	Taree	NSW
2	NAT 3	UnitingCare Burnside	Coffs Harbour	NSW
3	NAT 4	Macquarie Regional Library	Dubbo	NSW
4	NAT 8	Wellington City Council	Wellington	NSW
5	NAT 37	Northumberland Network	Cessnock	NSW
6	NAT 42	Port Stephens Council	Raymond Terrace	NSW
7	NAT 64	Nowra Family Support Services	Nowra	NSW
8	NAT 67	Beachside Family Centre/ Umina Public School	Umina	NSW
9	NAT203	UnitingCare Burnside	Wyong	NSW
10	NAT 212	Northlakes/Blue Haven Public School	Blue Haven	NSW
11	NAT 215	Goulburn Schools as Community Centre	Goulburn	NSW
12	NAT 102	Safer Toowoomba Partnership Inc	Toowoomba	QLD
13	NAT 202	Central Queensland/Dingo State School	Rockhampton	QLD
14	NAT 214	Bribie Island State School	Bongaree	QLD
15	NAT 216	Murgon Let's Read/The Smith Family	Murgon	QLD
16	NAT 229	Logan Let's Read /The Smith Family	Logan	QLD

No	ID	Lead Agency Name	Community Area	State
17	NAT 230	Coolangatta Let's Read/The Smith Family	Coolangatta	QLD
18	NAT 199	Whyalla Let's Read /The Smith Family	Whyalla	SA
19	NAT 204	Onkaparinga City Council/The Smith Family	Hackham West	SA
20	NAT 210	Elizabeth Vale Let's Read /The Smith Family	Elizabeth Vale	SA
21	NAT 225	Salisbury Let's Read/The Smith Family	Salisbury	SA
22	NAT231	Port Adelaide Enfield /The Smith Family	Port Adelaide	SA
23	NAT 20	Moorabool Shire Council	Bacchus Marsh	VIC
24	NAT 21	City of Greater Geelong	Corio	VIC
25	NAT 26	East Gippsland Community Health Service	Bairnsdale	VIC
26	NAT 32	Brimbank City Council	Sunshine West	VIC
27	NAT 34	City of Wodonga	Wodonga	VIC
28	NAT 53	Bendigo/The Smith Family	Bendigo	VIC
29	NAT 97	Colac Community Hub	Colac	VIC
30	NAT 217	South Gippsland & Bass Coast	South Gippsland	VIC
31	NAT 220	City of Yarra Let's Read /The Smith Family	Collingwood	VIC
32	NAT 35	Ngala	Mirrabooka	WA
33	NAT 55	Kwinana Early Years Services	Kwinana	WA
34	NAT 85	Gosnells Early Years Group (GEYAG)	Maddington	WA
35	NAT 103	Broome Library	Broome	WA
36	NAT 134	Central Great Southern (A Smart Start)	Katanning	WA
37	NAT 224	Port Hedland Let's Read/The Smith Family	Pilbara	WA
38	NAT 226	Collie Let's Read /The Smith Family	Collie	WA
39	NAT 227	Karratha Let's Read/The Smith Family	Pilbara	WA
40	NAT 228	Midland Let's Read/The Smith Family	Midland	WA

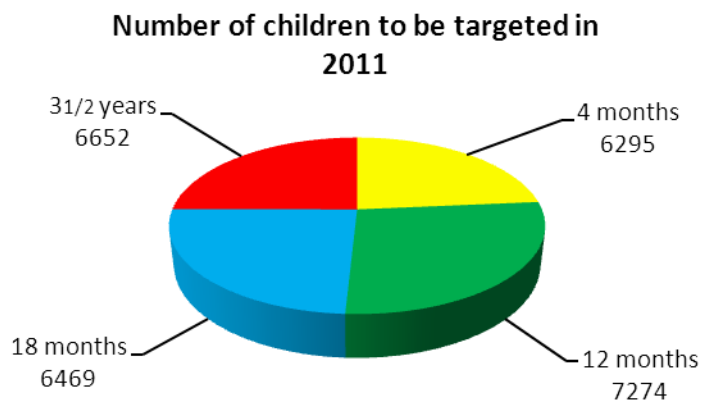
a) Number of Children Reached in 2010





Government Funded Sites (TAS & OLD)

b) Total Number Of Children To Be Targeted in 2011



c) Community Involvement

- Municipal Library 25 communities
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse families 25 communities
- Indigenous and/or Torres Strait Islander families 26 communities

d) Community Activities Promoting Early Literacy Undertaken This Year

NEW SOUTH WALES

Beachside Family Centre/Umina Public School

- May - organized a Book Workshop for CALD families attended by 12 children, 1 worker, 2 volunteers
- July - Rainbow Day at the Local Library attended by 30 children, 1 worker, 4 volunteers
- August - Story time in the Park attended by 219 children, 6 workers, and 30 volunteers with media coverage by local paper.
- May - December Community Readers' Program – Readers visited Preschools and Playgroups to model and encourage reading. 12 volunteers. Media coverage to enlist volunteers.
- December - Reading sessions at opening of new regional Park attended by 20 children, one worker and one volunteer.

Goulburn Schools/Community Centre

- November - Let's Read Launch in the Goulburn & District community was held at the Public School Library and attended by local members of The Smith Family (TSF), community professionals, children and parents from playgroups.

Macquarie Regional Library

- Every six weeks a talk to New Mums' group is given to promote the importance of reading with their babies.

North Lakes/Blue Haven

- Facilitator training held May 2010 and program implemented October 2010. Family reading Day and Storytelling Day during Families Week to be held to launch the program and hopefully the exposure will attract more funding for the program to continue.

Nowra Family Support

- Feb - Grandparents Group at Milton Ulladulla Outreach – 17 Let's Read kits delivered
- Feb - Y-lse Parenting Group – East Nowra – 5 kits
- March - Fun Day at Nowra Family support – 15 kits
- May - Fun Day – Nowra Mall – 5 staff, 2 volunteers, 3 Library members 59 families attended and 59 kits distributed.
- March - Milton Ulladulla Outreach Playgroup – 7 kits
- August - Presentation at Clipper Road Pre-School – 22 Kits delivered
- August – Presentation at Worrigeer Pre School – 28 kits delivered
- October - Presentation to Bomderry Pre School – 20 kits delivered
- November - Presentation Kangaroo Valley Pre-School – 17 kits delivered.
- December – Presentation at Bomaderry Pre School – 8 kits delivered
- Immunisation Clinics at East Nowra Neighbourhood Centre and Sanctuary Point on a monthly basis.

- Jervis Bay Playgroup – one visit
- Weekly - Sanctuary Point ‘SPLASH’ Art in the Park Playgroup collaborative, Koori Kids Playtime also held throughout the year, Kindy Playtime (Transition to School Playgroup) – four visits.
- Bay & Basin Playgroup and Family Fun Day Book Tent. The tent at both events offers quiet time aside from all the fun on offer.

Port Stephens Council/Family Action Centre

- Periodic visits to local playgroups provided literacy sessions modelling reading for parents – average 12 children per session.
- Let’s Read Party – Celebration of early literacy attended by 37 children.
- Dad’s Twilight Story times – 14 families attended and 262 children.
- Each week visited local families through LGA reading and lending books – 75 families participated in 2010

UnitingCare Burnside – Coffs Harbour

- Storytime at Coffs Harbour Library for Aboriginal families. Presentation about the importance of early literacy, all families received a Let’s Read DVD. Media coverage by the local newspaper. Approximately 30 children attended and 3 workers. Kerry Neal played the didgeridoo in a fun and educational way.

UnitingCare Burnside – Wyong

- August - Gosford City Reads – in collaboration with the Peninsula Schools and Community Centre - Storytime in the Park was enjoyed by over 100 children –The early childhood workers presented story time with the children in small groups.
- Monthly - Newsletter articles on literacy during the early years were included in both playgroup and Community Centre newsletters.
- Organised an excursion to the local libraries for story telling and to familiarise families with the library services so families could join the library and borrow books on a regular basis. 37 children and 30 parents attended.
- Warnervale Family Centre ran Let’s Read group sessions where families were supported by a worker and volunteer. Sessions included activities to support the books being shared with families. Children were from all age groups.

Wellington City Council

- Reading program in the local Aboriginal preschool using Let’s Read resources – six sessions in all. There was positive feedback from the teachers.

QUEENSLAND

Bribie Island State School

- September - Book Week promotion with local library and museum. National Numeracy & Literacy Week Book Character Parade and Scavenger Hunt.
- October – A Parent evening was held at one of the group schools where parents were introduced to the program and book for 2011. The program was delivered to the parents enrolling students for prep.

- November - Community Kindergarten secured RSL sponsorship for Let's Read and invited The RSL executives to thank them and to launch Let's Read. A picture was published in the RSL community newspaper.
- November – Launch of the 2011 Let's Read program at Prep parent information morning.
- November - A Support Teacher spoke at a promotional morning tea with executives from the school and P & C who again pledged financial support for the program into 2010.

Coolangatta

- Three playgroups in the Coolangatta area reaching 40 plus local families.
- Support for the program supplied by the local libraries to stock the books on the suggested reading lists.
- Support from the Gold Coast City council project officer to provide names of potential organizations/individuals to promote and be trained in delivery of the program.

Dingo State School

- March - Parent Information session to promote home reading and the Let's Read Program
- May - Under 8's RAF's playgroup day of activities.

Murgon

- March - Training for professionals to deliver Let's Read was attended by 5 services including Child Care, Disability & Community Health personnel.
- Two training sessions were presented to 14 Child Care Workers from two centres one Kindergarten teacher and five support workers from the local Community Service Centre
- November - Open Day held at The Smith Family Learning Centre. Approximately 10 families attended the Let's Read presentation.

Safer Toowoomba Partnership

- A local artist worked with children at Rockville School to produce two books. The local television station attended the launch of the first book and filmed the children. The prep class of 20 children and 25 Year 5, 6 and 7 were involved, each receiving a book.
- August - Multicultural Day was another opportunity to distribute 100 books.
- October – A Fun Day was held again during Family Week with over 200 people attending. We took this opportunity to promote Let's Read and to get books to more families.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

City of Onkaparinga – Hackham

- April - Dad's Night – Morphett Vale Kindergarten, delivered Let's Read to 26 Dads and gave them each reading mats donated by VIEW.
- May - Giant Playgroup Day – delivered Let's Read packs and did storytelling with 200 children for two hours.
- October – Babies to Bookworms – Under 5s literacy event hosted by The Smith Family in the Hackham Community with 200 participants

- October – Let’s Read Walk & Talk session to Noarlunga Library with O’Sullivan Beach Children’s Centre.
- November – Let’s Read Morning Tea – O’Sullivan Beach Children’s Centre attended by sixteen parents.
- December – Let’s Read Launch Party across Onkaparinga in conjunction with Noarlunga Library Summer Reading Club launch – approx. 300 participants

City of Playford- Elizabeth Vale

- July - Let’s Read Get Active event also involving other community organisations offering 0-5 and 5-12 age groups a range of activities encouraging children to turn off the TV, “Let’s Read and Get Active”.
- All Year round Storytime sessions and a Book Week Dress-up day in August when families, children and staff dressed up as storybook characters at Playford Library and delivered Let’s Read packs.
- September – Assisted with Elizabeth North Let’s Read launch event – Centacare Child Protection Week event delivering Let’s Read and informing re The Smith Family generally. Two Kinderym sessions were held to discuss TSF opportunities with families and deliver Let’s Read packs. These sessions were successful and will hopefully lead to Kinderym becoming a Let’s Read partner with trained staff and future scholarship referrals.
- September - Attended the Swallowcliffe Learning Together book making sessions to discuss TSF and incorporate Let’s Read into their sessions.

City of Salisbury

- November - Let’s Read launch – various sites attended Bagster community centre with approx. 50 children participating in various activities.

Port Adelaide Enfield

- August - Let’s Read launch held at Parks Community Centre with 150 in attendance including 70 young children several dignitaries were also in attendance and the event was covered by local TV.
- October - Le Fevre community Service Forum launched their Fatherhood Engagement Project with an event “Dads Are Doing Stuff”. Ten fathers and 14 children attended, Let’s Read was promoted.
- October - Annual Playgroup in the Park event with thousands of young children and their parents enjoyed a range of activities. This was a fantastic event for The Smith Family and Let’s Read promotion, with coverage in the local TV news and newspapers.
- November – Let’s Read morning tea at Kilburn Kindy/Primary attended by around 20 parents. Newly trained staff delivered the Let’s Read messages; this was extremely pleasing to the school counsellor. Also participated in ‘Christmas at the Parks’ at the Community Centre attended by hundreds of families providing a great opportunity to promote Let’s Read and other TSF programs.

Whyalla

- July 2010. Launch of Whyalla’s Let’s Read program at the Civic Library, attended by more than 100 families and the Whyalla News covered the event. OneSteel Whyalla also promoted this program in their newsletters.

VICTORIA

Bacchus Marsh

- Literacy Week – Moorabool Literacy Trails in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan. Maternal & Child Health Unit promoted Let's Read through their activities and displays during the events.
- Moorabool Shire Council's Maternal & Child Health provided the Imagination Magic program to young children and parents/carers in a variety of sessions that include storytellers, music and movement, creative play, puppetry and providing and opportunities for literacy learning.

Bendigo (Eaglehawk/Kangaroo Flat)

- October - Children's Literature Festival - Approx. 300 students and 50 carers attended. The program involved story reading in Shops in Eaglehawk CBD, a story telling session and a celebratory BBQ in Canterbury Park. All children received a Let's Read balloon, promotional materials and a 'show bag' with a book included.
- Community Literacy Strategy: There are a number of initiatives in Bendigo and a small consortium has been formed to develop a community literacy strategy to implement a program to ensure that we have an integrated approach, especially in early year's literacy. Let's Read is an integral component and this initiative is seen as critical to sustainability.

Brimbank City Council

- Burmese (ISIS Harmony) Playgroup. 10 week program of book making, Library staff visits, reading demonstrations, practice reading sessions and interactive books. The group has 4 sets of Let's Read books. Interest of parents was sparked to practise reading other books. The group produced a Burmese Noodle Cook Book and has been produced in limited edition by ISIS Primary Care.
- Vietnamese Playgroup. 5 weeks of literacy activities included a talk on reading and early brain development, a visit from library staff, book reading and interactive books.
- African Women's Group. 3 weeks of book making and a visit from library staff. Parents enjoyed the activities and have started to use Let's Read books at home. The group practises reading with parents regularly.
- St Albans & St Albans South Primary held talks on "Let's Read" and the importance of encouraging a love of books in young children.
- Joint Literacy promotion events (4) with Brimbank Library in 2010
- Talk at Maternal Child Health Centre on sharing books with babies.
- Reading set for community use.

City of Wodonga

- May - Teddy Bears' Picnic was attended by approx. 200 children, parents, grandparents and carers.
- September - Spring Storytime was well attended and had media coverage.

City of Greater Geelong

- April 2010. Let's Read Launch was held at the Portarlington Pre-School with the local Ward Councillor, 40 children and their parents attending. Press coverage included an

article published in two local newspapers and a TV Channel conducted an interview with the Let's Read Project Officer.

- June 2010. The Corio Family Fun Day with the Let's Read program was held at Corio Bay College Family Centre. The Geelong Regional Library Children's Services Librarian provided reading and storytelling in the children's book marquee. Over 300 children and parents attended.
- 2010. Let's Read in Corio conducted training for 7 additional children's services workers.
- 1,234 Let's Read resource packs shared via 5 Community Family Support Agencies.

City of Yarra

- Launch June 2010 at Richmond Library. Four play groups arrived by bus, 25 children and 20 parents attending, including 6 HIPPY parents. Also attended by two City of Yarra Councillors, Family Services Manager, Yarra Library Youth Services Manager, and members of Yarra Emergent Literacy & Learning Group, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Berry Street and co-ordinators of 4 playgroups, Baby Book Club support workers and TSF. The event was also supported by Collingwood Police.
- Launchpad to Learning Collingwood Christmas Party – Over 500 parents and their children participated in an event focussing on literacy on providing activities that would increase literacy opportunities for the children.
- Let's Read had an information booth where 42 parents were recorded, given an information bag and asked to attend their Maternal and Child Health Centres to receive a book.
- Following the event, the local centres reported running out of Let's Read books, especially in the 12 and 18 months groups. This event also lifted the morale of the housing estates as they frequently feel isolated from the general community.

Colac Community HUB

- October 27th - Children's Week Event – 200 children under 6 with parents/teachers/child carers attended. Local press provided coverage. Glastonbury staff facilitated activities including play-dough, story time using Let's Read materials, face-painting, animal nursery
- October 1st - Opening of new Colac Library included making bookmarks, play activities, bubble blowing. Let's Read materials displayed in marked boxes.
- Throughout the year HIPPY and PLAY – (Playing Actively with Youngsters) were delivered. These focused on a positive home learning environment, pre-literacy, and the importance of reading. Families are provided weekly with books donated by our local library and a Let's Read pack.

South Gippsland & Bass Coast

- Children's Week at Coal Creek, Korumburra. Story telling with big books by a local policeman was attended by 20 children.
- General group book reading from Let's Read resources at Bass Coast Children's Centre and Nurture One Children's Centre. The latter has a public display of Let's Read resources/posters and offered books/DVD to borrow from pooled resources.
- Let's Read is one of several funded early literacy programs implemented as part of DEECD funded South Coast literacy activities.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Broome Library

- Continuing weekly storytime sessions in the library (2-4 year olds) as well as outreach visits to childcare centres (1-4) community house (newborns) and monthly birthday clubs (1-2 years).

Collie

- Let's Read launch held at Collie Playgroup attended by over 50 children, Child Health Nurse, Library Manager, Deputy Principals, Principals, Speech Pathologist.
- Story time/Fruit in the Park–1st birthday event. Let's Read 12 month packs delivered.

Gosnells Early Years Group

- Monthly reading sessions for families and children under 5 by Diploma students supported by a lecturer. Roughly 90 children and 70 parents attended in 2010.
- “Story time bucket” introduced to encourage parents of children under 5 to connect with their young children through books. A Day Care Worker in conjunction with pre-schools developed this with the idea of encouraging parents and their children to share stories and bond with books while exposing children to language. The Family Support worker visits selected centres and demonstrates the ways the Storytime Bucket resources can be used. 60 Story time Bucket resources distributed to early years centre.
- Media Story “A NEW Chapter in Child Literacy”.

Central Great Southern

- Regular Storytime and Rhyme Time sessions held in the libraries, playgroups, schools and child care at 7 locations.
- Smart Start Storytime kits loaned to community groups regularly

Karratha

- October 28th – Let's Read Launch was held at a local pavilion attended by 50 children and 20 adults. The press also attended.
- August – Centro Mall Stall – For 2 days information given to local community.
- Sept - Community Literacy Forum. Local professional agencies interested in early literacy held the forum at the local library, attended by 340 children, 189 adults and the local press who published an article and photo promoting Let's Read.
- Local Aboriginal Playgroup – Event also attended by Child Australia at which 9 Let's Read was delivered to 9 families.
- Local Networking meetings held attended by Anglican Church, 2 District Chambers of Council, Department of Child Protection, Pilbara Health Network, Population Health and various others.

Kwinana Early Years Services

- April -School holiday activity – 23 children engaged in Let's Read presentation.
- July - NAIDOC Week. 13 children engaged in reading activity with KEYS staff and a member of the Medina Aboriginal Cultural Centre.
- August - Book Week. 34 children engaged in reading activity at Kwinana Library.
- October - Children's Party in partnership with the Town of Kwinana Library Let's Read was presented to 35 children.

Midland

- September 21st - Fun Around Books (FAB) Steering committee formed (includes Let's Read)
- November 18th - Let's Read training session held attended by 25 participants.

Mirrabooka/Nagala

- January – June. Attended Funtopia Fun Day, Harmony Week, at Mirrabooka Shopping Centre, Ishar's Happy Families Day.
- There have been 31 partnered activities with libraries, childcare centres, playgroups and Primary Schools. Also partnered with Anglicare Parks Project.
- 7 Let's Read feedback questionnaires, 14 for Literacy Links and 5 from HIPPY participants. The Let's Read feedback, 100% were either quite or greatly satisfied.
- The Literacy Links feedback, 100% were feeling more confident about helping their child develop literacy skills.
- Referred families to their Child Health Nurse/Speech Pathologist, who completes free assessments in Merriwa and the HIPPY program
- 8 Let's Read and Literacy workshops attended by 37 professionals from local agencies working with children 0-5 yrs.
- Facilitated reading and Literacy activities with children and parents at 3 parks and 4 other community events including International Children's week event in the Shopping Centre, NAIDOC day event and Koondoola Christmas Party
- Let's Read Facilitator workshop with 9 local parenting agencies attended by 21 staff. Convened Literacy Links reference group meeting.
- 749 book packs distributed in the period. 10 consumer surveys completed. All expressed satisfaction
- Collaborated with 16 local community agencies in the area.

Port Hedland/Pilbarra

- October 27th – 28th the Let's Read Launch for Karratha and Port Hedland. Both were well attended with nearly 200 people between the two sites.
- November – Let's Read trainer, flew from Perth to deliver the training in Port Hedland.

(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

Benefits

Children

- Encouraged to pick up books and want to keep reading; having fun with books; receiving free, sturdy books which always grab their interest, to take home

- Increased access to early literacy in a supportive way – all children 0-5 have access to packs; Let's Read involved children show some reading skills
- Immunisation Clinics – children and carers put at ease now; a very large number of 4 month old children are introduced to Let's Read via MCH nurses
- Experience a wide range of reading at library story time; more access to books
- Participate in group learning at Let's Read session
- Pre-school children and their parents keen to share books together; more pre-schoolers reading-engaged; stronger attachment with their parents
- Increased self esteem
- Access to free Let's Read events; increased participation in literacy week by younger children; books given to children attending playgroup or event days

Parents

- The opportunity to engage and speak with parents about the program and develop relationships with them; more parents involved in reading
- Learn the benefit of early literacy (0-5 years) and having the skills and resources to support their children in this; parents see it can be fun talking about the pictures and asking questions of children, without reading each word
- Over 80% who received the kits report reading to their children regularly now; the majority of prep 2011 parents introduced to the program
- Books used as a tool for effective bonding with their children by allocating special time for reading; the pleasure parents take in seeing children respond to stories; learning to read to their child in a fun way and participating in their learning; most read more effectively and often to their children
- More confident to attend a library and borrow books; knowledge of other age appropriate books to borrow; a few have joined or visit the library or have bought suggested books; increasing participation in literacy trails and awareness of Let's Read.
- DVD helps empower parents to read with children
- Spending time in group activities promoting fun sharing a book and gaining confidence in reading. Having reading sets for groups to share and practise; role modelling storytelling for families
- The Let's Read resources provide a topic to break down barriers and allow community professionals to develop relationships with families

Service Providers

- Has been an encouragement for us. Family Day Carers now take children to the Library and also lend out their own books
- Library staff include Let's Read information when signing a new member of the public, providing us with rates of participation in the program; Let's Read pack a great tool. 5 libraries loan Let's Read packs leading to further engagement with libraries through Preschool Story-time etc.
- The number of agencies willing to participate in the program continues to grow, although in its infancy; meet as a group to discuss literacy and coach skills; has been an improvement in Education Qld views the program allowing us to approach agencies other than schools
- Agencies are enthusiastic as they now have much needed resources to tackle an ongoing need, one having started a playgroup centred around the Let's Read emergent literacy program; very positive and distributing packs to families. One planning Let's Read parent night.
- Implementation of additional early years programs easier; developing relationships with Early Years sites in this LFL community; Let's Read provides connectedness to enable promotion of other important messages such as health, via OPAL, Active After-school and Foodies.
- Reported that Let's Read is useful for non-English speaking parents and those with low levels of literacy; parents are aware they do not need to be able to read English to be able to develop emergent reading skills in their children.
- Maternal and Child Health raising the profile of early literacy learning and promoting positive messages.
- Diploma of Children's Services students have been actively participating in storytime sessions. Their participation is being recognised in their course credits.
- Having chances to explain the importance of reading with children and being able to refer for intervention if deemed necessary
- Commenced discussions with a Speech Pathologist to assist with promotion to families. The Indigenous Playgroup being targeted as an outlet for Let's Read.

Challenges

Children

- Ensuring all children receive a book; ensuring we stock appropriately for demand in each age-group. 3.5 year age-group much more popular than expected

- Ensuring that the family receive a variety of books rather than the same book twice when they have 2-3 children; Not all children have access to a DVD player
- Locating and working with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families. There are many more children in the Pilbara than we can access with funding available, some live in remote communities.
- We need culturally appropriate books and resources for Aboriginal and African families; access to bi-lingual books – quite pricey
- Parents who have been trained in the program not imparting the knowledge to, or sharing Let's Read materials with other families and other children
- The 'once removed' delivery strategy presents complications, especially with respect to accountability
- Keeping children actively involved
- There were only a few people trained initially in Port Hedland. It is difficult to reach all the families targeted with limited staff. More training will be held shortly.

Parents

- Working with young parents. They say they have plenty of books at home but not reading regularly.
- Finding strategies that work other than simply lending out our books.
- Reaching parents with the message of early literacy, especially those with low literacy levels
- Finding suitable times due to distances travelled
- Some parents suspicious of the reason for supplying free books to them; some are sceptical and don't like to be seen as 'needing help'.
- Parents too busy to chat with professional concerned and be taught how to deliver the program to their children
- Working with parents who did not have a positive experience of reading in their culture; working with parents who have limited understanding of books
- Working with families who are facing other issues such as homelessness, finance, settling into a new country
- Parents' expectations that they will receive more than one pack
- Delivery in an area of great diversity with largest national percentages from the NESB with refugee status.
- Delayed feedback in NESB group. As a result staff have included immediate feedback and informal, anecdotal reporting on later contact as a successful mechanism. This is less stressful as committing to paper for many people is seen as an unsafe action. Staff changeovers impact on

familiarity with staff and feelings of safety to provide feedback. Similarly community facilitators have reported these problems. We have been reluctant to link provision of books to the return of complete reporting

- Reporting: In this funded area, Let's Read activities are reported twice to TSF using two different templates. The current arrangement does not appear to be an efficient use of staff time.

Service Providers

- Achieving specific funding; the need to identify and engage additional funding to expand
- Ongoing challenge to engage the 'at risk' parents and children. We continue to strive towards this by home-visiting/visiting at places parents are comfortable with.
- Having enough time and resources eg vehicle, to visit remote communities.
- The need to continually retrain a transient workforce in a mining community; staff turnover requiring training of 3 new Let's Read staff at the end of 2010. Availability of playgroup co-ordinators for training and re-training due to staff changes; Lack of volunteers/workers for the program; no additional staff to organise a separate community event; part-time employment has some impact on accessibility and flexibility
- Reluctance on behalf of local community organisations to supply staff to undertake training in delivery of the program
- Time constraints for some organizations; scheduling steering committee meetings to suit busy diaries; time constraints on some workers to explain Let's Read packs
- Collection of accurate statistics from agencies. Now rectified as supply of packs is stopped if statistics not supplied.
- Non-distribution of delivered books at one site resulting in our withdrawing the books and passing to those who would use them effectively. (A joint decision, but negative issue to deal with.)
- Trusting some Let's Read sites with data collection and follow-up with families difficult; targeted evaluation and focus groups tend to be more effective for the evaluation process
- Developing new ways to promote Let's Read to keep the program in the minds of clients
- Providing an outdoor setting accessible to all service providers given the many regulations in place today
- Providing a greater choice of books where parents have 3 children and/or multiple births and have already accessed all Let's Read books; distribution of books to the older group, in particular the 3.5 years group, when books are being distribute through the MCHCs.
- A service provider is having difficulty supplying follow-up books and at the same time remaining equitable for all children.
- Maintaining involvement of YELL community group when all involved are busy as this is not part of their regular work.

- Lack of clarity around limitations on use of funding within the project i.e. funding must be used solely for resources and not for training/launch costs etc; sustainable funding and the ability to reach more families.
- It would be great if the majority of Let's Read books were a little simpler as far as language (eg 'On your Potty' – some sentences are quite long. Research by Lesley Tan shows the average 3-4 year old can only understand a sentence of 4 or 5 words (a child with language delay understanding less)
- We find the program quite slow going. Let's Read facilitators keen but sometimes struggle to find the opportunity for delivery, many commenting the program reporting is arduous and potentially preventative in their delivery of the program
- DCP not engaged even though they are trained.

(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

NEW SOUTH WALES

Beachside Family Centre/ Umina Public School

- A young mother was quite negative when given a Let's Read Baby Bag of books etc. and said she had hated reading herself. The next week she requested more books as the baby really enjoyed the books, as did the father.

Macquarie Regional Library

- The library provides a Let's Read Baby Bag to all new born babies in the Dubbo area via the community nurses on their first home visit.

Northumberland Network

- We are thrilled the Child & Family Health Nurses continue to support Let's Read.

Nowra Family Support

- One family of 3 children had books at home but did not read them. After receiving the Let's Read packs they started reading books in the mornings rather than watching TV. After 6 months all three children either borrow books from the library/enthusiastically seek out and read the same books many times, depending on age.
- Another family with 2 children have now joined the library and purchased more. The boys enjoy reading together and the mother's relationship with them has improved.

Port Stephens Council/Family Action Centre

- 65,535 books were borrowed from the library by children who joined the Let's Read program in 2010. There continues to be a marked growth in awareness of the importance of very early reading and the packs are always very enthusiastically received.

UnitingCare Burnside – Wyong

- In the Aboriginal Supported Playgroup several families now visit the local library regularly.
- A CALD family are now connected to the local library. They continue to attend Story Time at the local library and in the park and now attend 2 playgroups in the area.
- Warnervale Family Centre have presented Let's Read to encourage parents in shared reading with children, including parents with poor literacy who have found they are able to share stories with the children with the emphasis being on reading the pictures rather than all the words.

QUEENSLAND

Bribie Island State School

- At the playtime group where we distributed Let's Read books in National Numeracy & Literacy Week the parents shared favourite titles and some started a book swap club. One parent offered discounts at his second hand bookshop.
- The school Literacy Coach met with the local library, museum and Arts Centre who worked with children on making a bridge to reflect Book Week and Bridge to the Future. The structure was covered in "bricks" depicting favourite book titles. This was moved to the library and then to the school. The library reported a surge in membership.

Coolangatta

- By informing members of the community about the program we have developed referral pathways and have been able to inform them and discuss the number of programs available. We have now a network of contacts in local organisations which should lead to increased implementation and sustainability over time.

Logan

- One mother said her child loves the Brown Bear book, makes all the animal sounds and can read the book aloud to her mum.
- Feedback on the packs was extremely positive. Very popular are 'ZaZa's Baby Brother' and 'Dear Zoo'. Of the 40 packs the pre-school teacher's aide received, 60% went to Pacifica families, 20% were indigenous.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

City of Onkaparinga - Hackham

- A family with a 2 year-old boy attend the Hackham Learning Club weekly for the older children to complete their homework. We showed the mum how to read a story just by

making up something to go along with the pictures. She now tells people she is his tutor and tries to tell him a story each week.

City of Playford - Elizabeth Vale

- One particular site is using Let's Read throughout their curriculum. Children are easily identifying the Let's Read books and asking their parents more and more often to read to them. Many parents are purchasing more books too.

Port Adelaide Enfield

- Let's Read has been a fantastic way to engage with a new community and has opened up many opportunities, creating relationships with diverse agencies, most of whom have been enthusiastic to participate. Let's Read is a great way of delivering the message of the importance of reading and literacy skill development and community partners such as schools and local families are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of children being ready to start school.

Whyalla

- OneSteel Whyalla are providing more funding for this program and continue to on an ongoing basis as they see early years literacy as important and that disadvantaged families should be assisted to participate, partly because they are the next generation of employees and deserve an opportunity in life.

VICTORIA

Brimbank City Council

- Comments from Harmony Playgroup participant with only very limited English, after 10 weeks of Literacy Activities and Let's Read :
- *"My 1 year-old son now goes and gets his Let's Read book and wants to share reading it as soon as he gets up.*
- *My son goes and gets his Let's Read book and reads it talking in Chinese.*
- *On TV they have a story time and now my daughter goes and gets her Let's Read book when she sees this on TV.*
- *My daughter has been watching a lot of TV but now asks for story time.*
- *When I brought the Let's Read book home from playgroup my 7 year old said we now have some real books which are like books at school. She now reads the book to her younger brother who attends the playgroup. This has helped me encourage reading in our family".*

Bendigo (Eaglehawk/Kangaroo Flat)

- St Liborius Primary School, Eaglehawk has Let's Read as an integral part of their playgroup held weekly. 20-30 children and their carers attend and a Let's Read display attracts young children, and a family friendly borrowing system encourages families to take books home to share. The playgroup was judged the Playgroup of the year by Playgroups Victoria.

City of Greater Geelong

- Most participants say they have changed the way they read and how often they read with their children since receiving the Let's Read packs, a minority have visited or joined the library or bought books from the suggested list since receiving the Let's Read packs.
- Those participants from a NESB found the program useful in encouraging and assisting parents to read with their children.
- Professionals report that kindergarten teachers find that children who have been involved in playgroups where Let's Read is delivered are exhibiting emergent literacy skills.

City of Yarra

- An email received from a volunteer who participated in the Christmas event. *“By way of background, I thought you would like to know that, as a young boy, I lived near the Collingwood Housing Estate where I met many people and played with the children who lived a very adverse financial existence through no fault of their own. An event such as the one I attended recently would have brought immense joy to the children who attended and it was gratifying that the event was such a success”.*

South Gippsland & Bass Coast

- We have found particular benefit in the use of Let's Read resources working with children and families through the speech pathology department of the Health Service. We have been lending individual books to children with delayed speech and language development. The families have been absolutely delighted with the child's keen interest in the Let's Read books at home.

Colac - Community Hub

- All parents have enjoyed receiving their Let's Read packs. In one of the groups they wanted to know when the next pack was being delivered. They had formed the view that this was a weekly thing – if only we could!

City of Greater Geelong

- After being given Let's Read packs the majority of parents were more confident reading to their child. Almost all parents were aware that at birth was the best age to start reading to their child.

East Gippsland Community Health Service

- We have found the program to be beneficial to families.

Bacchus Marsh

- A client of MCH with a young baby sent an email to one of our MCH Nurses to advise of the impact of the program on her son “Out of all the books we have beside the child's play mat he singles out “Brown Bear”, in part because it is the one re read daily. If he scoots over to the pile this is the one he will grab.
- Feedback through our evaluation process is overwhelmingly positive and demonstrates the program is having an impact on reading behaviours of young children.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Gosnells Early Years Group

- The Bonding with Books reference group members are currently collecting parent feedback regarding their participation in Let's Read and will be provided in the next report.

Great Southern – Central

- Positive verbal feedback has been given by parents who have received the Let's Read pages, stating they are a very helpful guide in choosing age-appropriate books for their children.

Karratha

- The Let's Read launch was held in late October and attended by about 70. There was great support on the day. Let's Read has been received very well by the Karratha community and was welcomed back with full vigour by local service providers and community members alike, particularly the Early Years Literacy Group.

Kwinana Early Years Services

- When providing Let's Read packages to families one of the mothers showed us a photograph of her 1-1/2 year old holding a book larger than the baby itself. The baby was fully engrossed in the book with wide eyes staring at the bright colours. The mother told us with a big smile "yes, my baby is a keen reader" and I have heard of Let's Read and think it's a great idea. She happily took the package provided and said she would be in contact in the future for the next age-group books.

Midland

- Midland has a strong Early Years Action Group with a dedicated group of community services forming the FAB (Fun Around Books) steering committee.

Mirabooka

- During a Let's Read session the issue of whether parents should read to their children in their mother tongue was raised. Some parents had come up against the message, especially from teachers that parents should speak to their children in English. It was explained to them that on the contrary, research points to findings that this is not the case and that children's knowledge and skills transfer across languages. At the end of the session an African father of five approached the facilitator with tears in his eyes as he told of how not speaking with his children in his own language had made him feel he was discarding loyalty to his home and culture and grinned as he announced that he would tell his children his favourite magical story about African animals that night.
- During a Christmas event a young boy noticed that book packs were being given away and stated he loved to read, particularly when he felt really sad (as when his behaviour at school got him into trouble). He said this past year had been better because he felt able to control his behaviour by 'just going away and reading'.
- A small group discussion ensued highlighting the value of reading in developing resilience and as a constructive way to adapt to change and stressful situations.

(g) Sustainability

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

NEW SOUTH WALES

Beachside Family Centre/ Umina Public School

- Looking at whether we need as many books in our borrowing system as not all books are being used. We will use the excess as prizes/incentives to get parents along to activities.
- We will need to continue to purchase the resources for more Baby Book Bags in future. Our purchase of 500 is reducing quickly.

Burnside Uniting Care (Coffs Harbour)

- We are currently awaiting an answer from St. George re an application we made last year for \$43,300 - if unsuccessful we may have to drop the program. We applied for 5 grants last year.

Goulburn Schools/Goulburn Public School Community Centre

- We are currently in negotiation with a number of services and organisations to develop partnerships and funding options to ensure growth and expansion of the program.

Macquarie Regional Library

- We currently have funding for 2 years for the program and will be seeking further funding at the end of 2012.

Northlakes/Blue Haven

- We plan to seek funding this year through the clubs locally and use our statistics to show that the program is benefiting families in this area.

Northumberland Network

- We have approached members of the Business Chamber of Commerce for the local area to donate \$200 per business to continue the program as we do not receive any government funding.

Nowra Family Support

- The agreement with TSF to deliver Let's Read for 3 years with Nowra Family Support Services as lead agency has now expired. The Let's Read Steering Committee will hold a public meeting to canvass a new lead agency shortly.

Port Stephens Council/Family Action Centre

- A NSW State Library Development Grant received by Port Stephens Library in 2008 has enabled Let's Read to be extended into 2011. Possibilities of funding from local

businesses and community clubs are being explored to assist us to maintain the program in 2012.

UnitingCare Burnside – Wyong

- All Early Childhood programs will continue to deliver Let's Read throughout 2011. LR is listed as a priority for caseworkers to deliver when home visiting and this will ensure sustainability of the program. Funding for the program is budgeted for within individual program.
- During 2010 Let's Read program allowed the Supported Playgroup to promote regular reading to families. Playgroups have again made a commitment through 2011. Warnervale Family Centre has programmed sessions in the local community and Brighter Futures Program is running throughout 2011 Walking the Talk sessions for families. Each week the parent and child participate in story time and are able to take home a book.

Wellington City Council

- Communities for Children fund the books and then disperse them between two Agencies in town, being Greater Western Area Health Wellington and Wellington Aboriginal Community Health Service. As both agencies provide ante and post-, natal care and immunisation clinics, it is ideal for them to dispense the books into the community.

QUEENSLAND

Bribie Island State School

- Schools will continue to seek support from parent bodies and community groups
- We will be seeking support for provision of the program for our playgroup, possibly from EYC
- In 2011 our playtime group will include the Community Health Nurse and we hope to be able to extend the provision of books to babies via the nurse. We then should be accessing 3 pre-school age groups.

Coolangatta

- We will be seeking to engage people to deliver the program in a broader and more inclusive manner to capture those families not targeted through local community organizations.

Dingo State School

- Plan to distribute reading packs in Education/Under 8's week. Funding needed to replace packs for an annual event targeting our new families.

Logan – Every Child Counts Initiative

- Funding for this program will end in December 2012. However it is hoped that the relaxing of boundaries placed on the program will see progress with regard to having greater involvement of the community and hence a greater sense of ownership will occur, resulting in future delivery of the program.

Murgon

- Additional funding for 2011 was sourced from Zig Zag Foundation which will allow us to continue delivery of Let's Read in the community. This is the 3rd year of funding from this source and we are confident support will be ongoing. Alternatively we have 2 corporates who have expressed interest in community support we could approach them.

Safer Toowoomba Partnership

- The Toowoomba North Let's Read project will join the TSF project on the South side.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

City of Playford – Elizabeth Vale

- We are seeking the possibility of more funding from the local Council in 2011 and beyond. We need to purchase more packs at this stage and offer more training to involve sites such as Lyell McEwin hospital, Mission Australia and Speech Pathologists. If they are unable to provide funding we require the Business Development Manager to source funds as soon as possible. In order to run another community event and training we require additional funding.

City of Salisbury

- The program is new in this community having been launched in late November, therefore little to report. The new LFLW will be growing this program and our current local partnerships.

City of Onkaparinga - Hackham

- The Local Council has provided some initial funding to look into integration of Let's Read into 6 libraries. In the 2nd quarter of 2011 there will be a decision as to whether to further fund the program in the library system.
- Each centre which is able to has set up a borrowing system for families to borrow all the relevant age books and then more up to the next age without the need for a take home pack.

Port Adelaide Enfield

- In 2010 a report was submitted to the local Council which resulted in \$15,000 funding for Let's Read. Another will be presented to Council in 2011 to provide feedback about the success of the Let's Read launch and delivery in 2010 and seeking further financial contributions.
- The steering committee will continue to seek government grants and fundraising opportunities. We may have to rely on the Partnerships Manager to secure more funding from corporate sponsors.
- One adjustment would be to the parent survey when delivering the pack; a number of families have felt apprehensive about a couple of the questions (e.g. 'how many books do you own?').

- Another would be to make the indigenous/bi-lingual books more affordable.
- Also, there would be an increase in the number of community professionals undertaking Let's Read training if it was less expensive and quicker (such as introducing online training).

Whyalla

- OneSteel Whyalla has provided a further \$3000 funding for the program and are looking into doing so on an ongoing basis.
- Whyalla Let's Read committee has also approached Alliance One Credit Union and the local Council for potential funding.
- More early years sites will now be targeted, as well as primary schools offering early years programs

VICTORIA

Bacchus Marsh

- The program is currently funded by the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool Shire Council. Funding will continue for the next 2 years under the current agreement.

City of Wodonga

- Like many communities, just maintaining the present level of involvement, given budget constraints, is an ongoing issue. After much discussion, we may have to drop the information sheets so as to be able to carry on with delivery of all important books to our families.

City of Yarra

- We will continue as planned with funding sourced from TSF.

Colac Community HUB

- Funding is still being sought beyond June 2011. We hope that the funding will enable Let's Read to extend further in the community.

City of Greater Geelong

- City of Greater Geelong's Family Services Department to continue collaboration with the Geelong Regional Library and Best Start to strengthen awareness within the community of the importance of reading with children.
- Potential corporate / business interests to be canvassed to look at further financial support or sponsorship for the continuation of the Let's Read program.
- Continued collaboration with early childhood and family support agencies/services within Greater Geelong to promote the importance of reading in pre school years. Further specific focus is required in relation to engagement and delivery of Let's Read for families from different ethnic backgrounds eg. Sudanese and Karen communities.

- Examine options where Let's Read book borrowing schemes can be incorporated into community agencies and services.
- Review distribution of Let's Read in relation to the Young Readers Project initiative to avoid potential duplication.
- Discuss potential transfer of responsibility for the development and implementation of Let's Read from Greater Geelong City Council to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation.

East Gippsland Community Health Service

- Funding for Communities for Children ceased in 2009. Government funded Gippsland Lakes Community Health is now providing funding.

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

- We are in the process of planning the project succession beyond the life of the South Coast Early Years Literacy Project, of which funding ceases in July 2011. Let's Read is currently facilitated and distributed/coordinated under this umbrella project.
- We are looking at accessing funding to support an early years facilitator to support a Baby Book Club, see below.

General feedback:

- We find the program quite slow going. Let's Read facilitators are very keen to facilitate the program, but sometimes struggle to find the appropriate opportunity to deliver the program. Many of the facilitators have also commented that the program reporting is arduous and potentially preventative in their commitment to deliver the program.
- We are hoping to start up a Baby Book Club in Grantville, and are currently seeking funding for the facilitation costs of this program. It is envisioned that the Let's Read resources would be 'housed' at the Grantville OP Shop, which is run by the Bass Coast Community Health Service. Let's Read facilitators and other service providers would be able to use the space and access the Let's Read resources from this point.
- Family Day Care Field Workers from Uniting Care Gippsland have also expressed interest in training Family Day Care Educators in Let's Read, to both improve their understanding of the importance of early literacy and to be able to deliver the program to families they are working with. We are seeking funding to deliver the training to these stakeholders.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Broome Library

- Broome is about to increase population by 3,000 dwellings with the opening of Broome North shortly. This will see increased pressure on our services. New schools will be coming on board and SF continued support is appreciated and needed. Thankyou for your support over the past years – the books are appreciated by parents and children of the Kimberley region.

Collie

- The Collie community has 33 trained Let's Read professional delivery points through-out the community. The Let's Read trained professionals are a very diverse group which have access to the wider Collie community. The Let's Read group already have number of new community members who would like to be trained in the next financial year.
- As the Let's Read program has just been launched at the end of December 2010, our time frame until the end of financial year is quite short, we really only have 6 months to deliver the 330 packs to our community.

Gosnells Early Years Group

- Shell Australia provided additional funding of \$2,000 for resources (to include Huntingdale Primary School Playgroup). No further funding will be available from Shell and the group is currently identifying local businesses and corporate to approach.
- A "Let's Read" coordinator and a locally based trainer are now available for support and training.
- To date there is no formal Let's Read Agreement with our community as each agency has been unwilling to be subjected to the other organisation's public liability insurance requirements. This has been raised and needs to be resolved at national level.

Central Great Southern

- A Smart Start has formed a partnership with the YMCA of Perth Inc and has been successful in securing Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Development Commission's Regional Grants Scheme for 3 years for a part-time Regional Coordinator and Administration Officer.
- The funding has also enabled expansion of A Smart Start into the Lower Great Southern with a separate Regional Coordinator and Administration Officer based in Albany. A future proposal will be made to roll out the program to smaller communities throughout the Great Southern.

Karratha

- There is sustainability in that those who have been trained in Let's Read continue to deliver to the community, and share the message of the importance of Early Literacy with families. We are very grateful to have further funds through McConnell Dowell as the Let's Read Program does rely on funds for the resources, training as well as the immense distance that effect the Pilbara region.
- We have engaged a staff member to concentrate solely on the Let's Read program. This will enable families to have a known personal contact for information relating to the program.

Midland

- \$10,000 has been provided by the Panterra Press for delivery of Let's Read to Midland Community. The FAB steering committee is keen for this project to continue and grow with provision of further funding from the same company or others.

Mirrabooka/Ngala

- The Let's Read project would not be sustained without a commitment from The Smith Family to continue to fund the Let's Read component. Under our current C4C funding from The Smith Family, Ngala has developed a wider view of literacy promotion approach which has Let's Read as its core.

Under a general literacy approach we have developed links with:

- Local Government Authorities including local libraries;
- The State Library of Western Australia
- Western Australian Government authorities including Child and Community Health, Department of Education, the local Aboriginal Health Service, Multicultural and Migrant Services, private Child Care providers, Government and Non Government Early Parenting Services, local TAFE and English language instruction providers as well as other local C4C partners.
- In an area of low SEIFA, a significant Australian Aboriginal population, high immigrant and humanitarian refugee population, often with limited English and, in many cases, low literacy skills in their first language, any future strategies to continue the Let's Read project beyond the current funding, would require a broad strategy and funding approach.

Port Hedland/Pilbarra

- There is sustainability in that those who have been trained in Let's Read continue to deliver to the community, and share the message of the importance of Early Literacy with families. We are very grateful to have further funds through McConnell Dowell as the Let's Read Program does rely on funds for the resources, training as well as the immense distance that effect the Pilbara region.

