

RESULTS OF THE PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATION

We received 66 responses from schools, teachers, literacy organisations, libraries, writers, parents.

This is what people said ...

Australian National Early Literacy Summit

7 – 8 March 2016 • Hotel Realm, Canberra

Hosted by TV presenter Jennifer Byrne, an outstanding line up of Australian and International speakers from early childhood, literacy, libraries and the book industry. Join us and help drive the national agenda.



1. HOW IMPORTANT IS READING AND WRITING IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY?

95%

Imperative Cornerstone of every society Essential
Foundation stone for a digital society Totally Vital
Extremely Most important Very Paramount Crucial
Incredibly Integral Highly Absolutely critical
Irreplaceable Fundamental More important than ever
Underpins learning and life skills

3%

Less important Not very

2%

Importance of oral language for early years

2. ARE WE DOING THE BEST WE CAN?

75% NO

20% **MAYBE** Not every child will make it Expect too much of very young children

5% YES

3. HOW CAN WE SUPPORT ALL CHILDREN?

Before school

- Well-resourced, well-staffed libraries
- Free family literacy programs for early years
- Raise awareness of the importance of reading
- Help parents to help their children
- Age appropriate books for every child

School

- Evidence-based teaching practice, get the foundations right
- Teacher training, ongoing professional development
- Smaller class sizes, additional help for those who need it
- Early diagnosis and intervention for reading difficulties
- Parents, caregivers and teachers working together

4. WHAT ROLE SHOULD GOVERNMENT PLAY?

Infrastructure – schools, libraries, early childhood places
Research and implementation of evidence-based practice

Before school

Campaigns and activities eg Reading Challenges
Grants for literacy programs, classes for parents
Books in homes program

School

Screening for literacy difficulties in kinder
Ensure educators have knowledge, skills, ongoing learning
Train and employ more learning support teachers
Qualified library staff in every school
School funding related to successful learning outcomes
Curriculum to support literacy

5. WHAT IS MISSING?

Leadership in providing a collective, coordinated approach
Longitudinal studies

Before school

National awareness campaign

Parents' appreciation of the life-changing value of literacy

Free family literacy programs for all children

Resources for parents

School

Qualified library staff in all schools

Knowledge and skills for teachers

Professional networking opportunities

Teaching support for students with learning difficulties

Professional development opportunities