

STATE BUDGET

2018-19

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION JOHN GARDNER MP MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 4 September 2018

Investment in literacy guaranteed

The Marshall Liberal Government has committed to deliver a comprehensive program to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all South Australian students.

The 2018-19 State Budget initiative provides \$20.9 million over four years to deliver the Government's promised Literacy Guarantee package of measures designed to give students the best possible start to their education.

Central to the program is the Education Department's Literacy Guarantee Unit, established this year, that will hire 13 new literacy coaches to support schools.

Coaches will have experience and expertise in literacy instruction, including in phonics and teaching students with dyslexia and other learning difficulties.

Other initiatives under the Guarantee include parental engagement resources for schools and families, free dyslexia workshops for parents and the delivery of evidence-based literacy and numeracy programs for disadvantaged children in their early years before school.

The State Government will also deliver more breakfast programs in schools.

"We want our students to be the beneficiaries of the best education system in Australia, and a strong start in literacy is the essential foundation upon which a student's subsequent educational success is built," said Minister for Education John Gardner.

"The Marshall Liberal Government promised to deliver a Literacy Guarantee and that's exactly what we are doing.

"Last month, South Australia became the first state in the country to deliver Year 1 Phonics Checks for all Government schools, and we're pleased to be leading the nation in this way.

"From next year, all students enrolled in teaching qualifications in South Australia will be required to pass the LANTITE test to demonstrate that they have literacy and numeracy skills in the top 30 per cent of the population.

"Our children and young people deserve the best quality teaching and our schools must deliver the best possible literacy program that meets the needs of all students."