

Media Release

The Hon Nick Staikos MP
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Local Government



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INSPIRING A LIFETIME OF LEARNING FOR YOUNG READERS

The Allan Labor Government is supporting children and young people to become active and voracious readers through the Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund which supports our public libraries to purchase books for kids to read and enjoy.

Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos and Member for Footscray Katie Hall today visited West Footscray Library to announce \$1.1 million will be invested to help libraries purchase books – as 80th Children's Book Week celebrations are underway across the state.

The annual Premiers' Reading Challenge encourages children and young people to read a set number of books and record their efforts online. Since the challenge began in 2005, more than 4.75 million children and young people have turned the pages of more than 65 million books.

Each year, a book list is published as part of the challenge, containing a range of books suited to different reading levels and the fund enables Victoria's public libraries to purchase many of these books, which are in significant demand.

The fund also leaves a longer-term legacy of replenishing the stock of books in public libraries for children and young people on an annual basis.

Funding will be provided to councils, regional library corporations, Connected Libraries Ltd, Myli - My Community Library Ltd, Your Library Ltd, and Vision Australia to buy books and materials to support the challenge.

More information about the Premiers' Reading Challenge is available from Department of Education at: vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos

"Reading not only supports a lifelong love of learning, but helps kids build important literacy skills that will remain with them for life."

"Every year, the Premiers' Reading Challenge publishes a book list of recommended titles – this crucial funding allows Victorian libraries to meet the demand for these books among young readers."

Quote attributable to Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll

"The Premier's Reading Challenge has been building Victorian children's love of reading for 20 years now, helping students from toddlers to teenagers build essential literacy skills through a diverse range of books."

Quote attributable to Member for Footscray Katie Hall

"Young readers will love the exciting titles in the Premiers' Reading Challenge lists – this funding will ensure that our libraries in Maribyrnong will be fully stocked with these sought-after books."