

FOCUS ON READING 3-6

This year staff from Cooma Public and Cooma North Public schools have engaged in ongoing professional learning in Literacy.

Focus on Reading 3-6 aims to provide professional learning support to classroom teachers by targeting teachers of Years 3 – 6 in a school or community of schools. The goal is increasing teacher knowledge about how to develop fluent readers, comprehension and vocabulary skills. This is based on effective evidence-based practice. The program involves explicit teaching of critical aspects of reading. Students' reading progress is monitored against the K-6 Literacy Continuum/English K-6 syllabus (DET, 2009a: 28).

Focus on Reading 3-6 is based on a Professional Learning Model. The model engages teachers in:

- the research evidence
- intensive, purpose-driven learning
- between-session tasks designed to translate new learning into classroom action over time
- ongoing, systematic reflection on classroom practices and student progress.

The Professional Learning Model is delivered in phases:

- Phase 1 of the program focuses on teaching of *Comprehension*
- Phase 2 *Vocabulary Knowledge* and *Fluent Text* reading practices

OUTCOMES FOR TEACHERS

School staff work towards a change in their teaching practise and an increased understanding of how to teach reading.

It aims to have:

- a positive impact on their knowledge, attitudes and skills
- a deepened understanding of comprehension strategies and the links to comprehension, vocabulary knowledge and text reading
- a deepened understanding of effective teaching of reading
- increased belief in teachers' ability to improve literacy outcomes of all students
- deepened understanding of the nature and needs of literacy learners in Years 3-6
- increased willingness to participate in shared reflection and discussion of teaching of reading with other staff
- increased ability to translate literacy theory into practice.

Key changes are the use of the 'Super Six' strategies; making connections, predicting, visualising, inferring, questioning, summarising culminating in self-monitoring. In addition, teachers use the Focus on Reading 3-6 strategies across all Key Learning Areas (KLAs) including Maths, Science, History, Geography, Creative and Practical Arts and English.



OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

The impact of Focus on Reading 3-6 on student outcomes includes the improvement in:

- areas relating to students' engagement with and capability in literacy
- the volume, variety and complexity of texts read by students
- students' ability to read for meaning
- students' confidence in, and enthusiasm for reading
- students' understanding of what is expected of them when they read
- students' willingness to discuss what they have read
- students' use of effective strategies to assist them read and understand text, independently.

SUSTAINABILITY

The aim is to embed this approach in Cooma Public School's literacy program.

Louise Jenkins

Focus on Reading School Based trainer

Phase1

Phase 2

