

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 99**

**Asked on 17 February 2011**

**Ms Farmer** asked the Minister for Education and Training (Mr Wilson) —

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister provide details on the take-up by volunteers in the Brisbane metropolitan of the Queensland Ready Reader program.

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for her question and her ongoing interest in the Queensland Ready Reader Program.

While this question was asked of the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training; due to recent changes in Ministerial responsibility, I am now the Minister responsible for this matter and therefore provide this response.

I am pleased to report that as of 21 February 2011 there have been 645 metropolitan registrations of interest for the Queensland Ready Reader volunteer program through the Volunteering Queensland website. After initial registrations of interest, volunteers can then choose to attend training sessions offered across the metropolitan area at a number of different venues. These sessions are scheduled to be conducted at regular intervals across the 2011 school year.

Since volunteer training commenced in the metropolitan region in September 2010, 200 volunteers have undergone the two-day training course. Working with Children checks are completed, these volunteers will be placed progressively into schools to assist young readers.

Recent volunteer activity in the metropolitan area has seen two program information sessions conducted in the north and south of the region, and training at Craigslea State School on 17 and 18 February 2011, with 18 newly-trained volunteers now being screened for schools. Other trainings are also scheduled throughout the coming months.

The Parent Ready Reader program has also had a successful start in the Brisbane metropolitan area. The parent program is a new program being offered to all parents and carers of children in Prep to Year 3, and as of 14 February 2011 there are nearly 300 metropolitan parents who have registered their interest in the program.

The program acknowledges the important role parents play as a child's first teacher. During the program parents learn strategies for engaging children in everyday family activities where literacy behaviours and enjoyment of reading can be fostered.

The first parent programs have been held at Warrigal Road and Kenmore State Schools and 57 parents attended these workshops. The parent program will also be held at regular intervals across the metropolitan region, allowing all parents an opportunity to attend sessions.

I know your electorate office has been working closely with one of the metropolitan coordinators to plan and offer parent workshops within the Bulimba electorate, and I acknowledge your commitment to the literacy success of young Queenslanders.

More information about the Queensland Ready Reader program can be found online at: [www.deta.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/readyspreaders.html](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au/aflyingstart/readyspreaders.html).