

Submission - Parliamentary Inquiry into Adult Literacy Andrea McMahon No. 13 – additional information requested at public hearing on July 13, 2021

A sample of adult literacy resources requiring revision to align with the Science of Reading

The following selected resources are all freely available via the internet. Please note that these are resources that I've come across as a practitioner in the library literacy space. There would be many more outdated resources used in classrooms across the country.

- [Reading Writing Hotline - resources for students](#) – tips on reading, tips of spelling
- [Literacy face to face: a resource for adult literacy tutors](#) / Pamela Osmond. Granville, NSW: TAFE NSW, 2006
- [Welcome to the Library - adult literacy resource](#) (Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services, VIC) - launched at the 2017 ACAL Conference
- The following readers are great stories but the associated resources need to be revised:
[Gobsmackers - readers for adult learners](#) (Community Adult Literacy Foundation, WA)
– see Tips for tutors & Exercises
[Page turners](#) (PRACE, VIC) - short, easy-to-read stories for adults learning to read – free worksheets

Resources promoting the development of phonemic awareness in learners are conspicuously missing from adult literacy provider sites. Sites that do have a focus on the Science of Reading tend to be aligned with supporting people with learning disabilities, such as [SPELD SA](#) or are speech pathology sites, e.g. [Spelfabet](#))

A priority area to review is the VET sector courses on offer, including:

- [TAELLN501](#) - Support the development of adult language, literacy and numeracy skills
- [TAE80113](#) - Graduate Diploma of Adult Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice
- [TAE80213](#) - Graduate Diploma of Adult Language, Literacy and Numeracy Leadership
- [TAFE Statement in Volunteer Literacy Tutor Training](#) 800-000752 (I undertook this in 2018 and deemed it unsuitable for our adult literacy service)

For your information I have also included below a list of research supporting the Science of Reading supplied to the Australian Council of Adult Literacy as requested by TCAL president Lucy Whitehead following Tasmania's public hearings. It was prepared on the spot and there will be other relevant research available. I've spoken to Dr Janet McHardy (janetmchardy@gmail.com) who would be very happy to speak with you as both a literacy practitioner and researcher. Janet is from New Zealand but undertook her PhD at the University of Western Australia. Another good contact would be Anne Bayetto from Flinders University. Anne has expertise in both children's and adult literacy.

Research supporting the Science of Reading

Kruidenier, J. R., Macarthur, C. A. and Wrigley, H. S. (2010). [Adult education literacy instruction: A review of the research](#). Washington, DC: National Institute for Literacy.

McShane, S. (2005). [Applying research in reading instruction for adults: first steps for teachers](#). Washington, DC: National Institute for Literacy

Dehaene, S., Cohen, L., Morais, J., & Kolinsky, R. (2015). Illiterate to literate: Behavioural and cerebral changes induced by reading acquisition. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 16(4), 234–244. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrn3924> (attached) – research demonstrating that adults develop the same brain structures as children when learning to read.

Kilpatrick, David A. *Assessing, preventing and overcoming reading difficulties*. (2015). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. (*Includes research on children and adults)

Dehaene, S. *Reading in the Brain The New Science of How We Read* (2010). USA: Penguin. (*Includes research on children and adults)

Australian based research by Janet McHardy – check out the reference lists for recent international research

- McHardy, J. and Chapman, E. (2021). What strategies do less skilled adult readers use to read words, and how aware are they of these strategies? *Adult Education Quarterly*, Vol. 71 (1) 73–8
- McHardy, J. and Chapman, E. (2019). The Teaching Focus of Adult-Reading Teachers When Developing Word Reading Skill. *Literacy Vol. 53* (3)
- McHardy, J. et al. (2018). How less-skilled adult readers experience word-reading. *Australian journal of language and literacy Vol. 41* (1)
- McHardy, J. and Chapman, E. (2016). [Adult reading teachers' beliefs about how less-skilled adult readers can be taught to read](#). *Literacy and numeracy studies Vol. 24* (2)

[Citizen Literacy – reading and writing for everyone](#) – [Citizen Literacy White Paper](#) (p.6)

Kind regards,

Andrea McMahon

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