

## **Submission to the Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations: The Education of Boys**

### **Reading Recovery Program** (ACT Department of Education and Community Services)

The Reading Recovery program is an early intervention program that prevents reading and writing difficulties in later years. The program is short (12-20 weeks) but intensive (30 minute lessons every day) and is designed for students who are identified as being at risk of literacy failure in their second year of school. The program has operated in ACT schools since 1986. Please refer to the enclosed information booklet for further information about the program and its implementation.

The program collects and analyses entry and exit data on all students taken into the program. Age, Gender, ESL and ATSI status are also recorded. We are able to show that the Reading Recovery program has consistently achieved an average of 90% discontinuing rate since the program was established. This means that 90% of those students receiving a full program leave Reading Recovery with a satisfactory level of competence that will allow them to work at the average for their class. The remaining 10% who make progress but do not achieve a satisfactory level of competence are referred for further assessment and longer term assistance.

In terms of gender, approximately 30% of students entering the program are girls and 70% boys. In 1999, 90% of boys and 97.5% girls achieved satisfactory levels of competence by the end of their programs. Of the 18 students referred out of the program in 1999, 89% were boys. If the Reading Recovery program was able to extend the program length for referred students it is possible that most would be successful. However a limited time period of support is dictated by resource levels and demand for the program at a particular school

In 1999 7% of students receiving a full program were identified as having ESI, status which includes 3.5% ATSI students. The 4 girls and 6 boys (ATS1) all achieved satisfactory levels and were discontinued from the program.

The Reading Recovery program is an effective early literacy intervention for the lowest achieving boys and girls in ACT schools. Currently the program serves only a small proportion of students in need as the program is not fully resourced at the school or system level and is implemented in just over 50% of ACT schools.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further help.

29.6.00  
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## READING RECOVERY PROGRAM

### Outcomes of the Reading Recovery Program 1986-1999

|      |      |      |      |      |       |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991  | 1992 |
| 66%  | 93%  | 96%  | 91%  | 95%  | 86.5% | 90%  |
| 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998  | 1999 |
| 91%  | 91%  | 87%  | 87%  | 90%  | 91%   | 92%  |

### Reading Recovery students

|                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Year</b>          | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| <b>Gender female</b> | 38%  | 36%  | 29%  | 39%  | 33%  | 26%  | 29%  |
| <b>ESL</b>           | 8%   | 9%   | 10%  | 10%  | 5%   | 11%  | 7%   |