

Name of Library	Logan Central Library	
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Title of project/innovation/initiative	Central Page Turners Reading Program
Date initiated	August 2010
Date completed	Ongoing

The issue/challenge

Logan has become known as one of the most culturally diverse cities in Australia, with over 185 different cultures living here. It is also a very young city with around 50 per cent of residents aged 35 or younger. This gives our community a real vibrancy and energy, and presents a number of challenges and opportunities.

The 2011 [Australian Early Development Index](#) (AEDI) results for Woodridge have put the children entering Prep this year as being "Vulnerable" in 2 or more areas (42.6%). These areas include Physical Health and Wellbeing (28.7%); Social Competence (31.0%); Language and Cognitive Skills (31.9%). These results indicate that many of these children are not well prepared for school.

Many of the children who visit Logan Central Library after school are from English as Second Language (ESL) background, and exhibit issues with language and literacy. Many parents also express their concerns for their children's progress at school. They have talked about the difficulty of juggling full-time jobs to help their families settle into their new community, as well as the need to assist children with reading when they are also struggling with learning English. Central Page Turners was developed to help the children of the Woodridge area to improve their literacy and language skills.

Project details

Central Page Turners Reading Program is a very simple one-on-one language and literacy program that is run weekdays after school by a staff member who sits and listens to a child read, or the staff member reads to the child. It is a program that could easily be transferred to smaller library settings, and has significant long-term benefits for young people, their families, and the wider community. Songwriters Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody's song *From little things, big things grow* comes to mind.

One person is rostered on each day to assist children with reading strategies, improving comprehension skills, good reading habits and encouraging the

enjoyment and appreciation of books held within the library. Instructions on how to run the program are provided for all staff, and the Young People's Liaison Officer at Logan Central Library goes through the program with each person. Patience, enthusiasm and encouragement are vital elements in the delivery of the program to make it succeed.

A selection of texts is used with our young readers from the Logan Central Library's Beginner Series, focusing on different levels eg. Reading Eggs, National Geographic, Reading Corner etc. A selection of texts from beginner chapter book Series are also used eg. Solo, Sparklers, Aussie Nibbles, or books of interest chosen by the children.

A chart with children's names on it is kept. For every book read, the child receives a sticker on the chart. When the child has read 5 books, they get a tick on the chart, and a small prize.

If there are a number of children waiting to read, each reads one book at a time. If time permits, and there aren't a lot of children present, they can read up to 3 books in a session. For children reading chapter books, they generally read a chapter if the book isn't too long, or a few pages from their book.

It is also important to evaluate the program on a regular basis to see if any elements of the program need changing, as a means of improving outcomes. A new element that has been recently introduced, after talking with the parents of children currently involved in the program, is to have a small celebration twice a year (half-way through the year and at the end of the school year). This is an opportunity to celebrate the progress and hard effort each child has made. It is a way to include parents, especially those who may not always be able to make it to the library.

It is planned that leaders of specific ethnic community organisations in Logan will also be invited to participate in future celebrations so that they too can encourage the young people of Logan in recognising the lifelong importance of reading.

Since the new Logan Central Library opened in February 2011, over **510** readers have participated in Central Page Turners. Parents of children attending this program have reported verbally to staff on a regular basis how motivated their children are to improve their reading since coming on a regular basis.