

The Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA) is dedicated to supporting educators in the teaching of reading as mandatory phonics checks are introduced to schools

Tuesday, 1 December 2020: The Primary English Teaching Association (PETAA) remains committed to supporting teachers amid the news that New South Wales will join South Australia in adopting a compulsory phonics screening check in primary schools.

PETAA is a national, not-for-profit professional association for primary school educators that specialises in the teaching and learning of English and literacies across the curriculum, connecting evidence-based research with classroom practice. The association has a demonstrated longtime involvement with implementation of initiatives such as the phonics screening checks through our consulting work with various state and federal departments.

“PETAA recognises the importance of a rich classroom literacy environment which includes the specific and explicit teaching of phonics in the early school years,” said PETAA President Pauline Jones (Associate Professor, Language in Education at the University of Wollongong).

“As the profession evolves, and our understanding of the evidence behind the process of learning to read evolves, the role of an association becomes more critical than ever – it is through the continual support and professional development, resources and training available to teachers through associations like PETAA that educators can incorporate new evidence into their classrooms.”

PETAA has a 48-year history of supporting teachers to be the best teachers of literacy that they can be. That support is multi-faceted across a variety of mediums, from literature-based units of work, webinars and academic papers, to online professional learning courses that focus on teaching phonics in the classroom – and give teachers vital information and training on understanding letter-sound relationships in the process.

As part of PETAA’s goal to demystify academic research for teachers, the association (who provides research funding in the field and also operates as a small publisher for teacher reference texts) released the Educational Publishing Australia award-winning publication for teachers, *The Alphabetic Principle and Beyond: surveying the landscape* (Eds. Robyn Cox, Susan Feez and Lorraine Beveridge), that traverses the full landscape of teaching phonics in the classroom.

“It is vital that teachers across Australia have continued access to quality professional resources and development that provide them with the tools they need to adapt and deepen their understanding of English and literacy in order to provide every young Australian with a powerful literacy education,” said Jones.

“If teachers are feeling overwhelmed at the prospect of a deeper focus on phonics in their classroom, we ask them to reach out PETAA for support, training, and access to expert strategies and advice.”

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For more information, please contact PETAA: Cassie Tongue | cassie.tongue@petaa.edu.au | (02) 8020 3914

About PETAA

The Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA) is a national, not-for-profit professional association supporting primary school educators in the teaching and learning of English and literacies across the curriculum. PETAA builds knowledge, capacity and resources to create confident, skilled, best-practice educators in the areas of literacy, literature and language. PETAA members are teachers, school leaders, researchers, and education consultants who work in all education sectors across Australia, and in Australian international schools.