



# MEDIA STATEMENT

THE HON VERITY FIRTH MP

Minister for Education and Training  
Minister for Women

**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 5AM, THURSDAY JULY 9, 2009\*\***

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## **NSW TEACHERS ARMED WITH LATEST LITERACY RESOURCES**

The NSW Government will train teachers in the latest literacy teaching techniques to boost the State's literacy rates.

NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, said the new teaching methods were targeted at strengthening the status of NSW as a world literacy leader.

"A recent OECD study ranked NSW 15 year olds as among the best readers in the world," Ms Firth said.

"Our state's reputation is testament to the hard work of our teachers and students, and the rigour of the NSW literacy curriculum.

"The new methods are the cutting edge in literacy teaching techniques and were developed in conjunction with teachers and expert researchers.

"This is an investment in a better future for students and teachers in NSW.

"These new teaching tools will provide teachers with practical advice on explicit literacy teaching strategies, like phonics.

"NSW public schools are leading the way in the development of these new teaching methods with independent schools now following our lead.

"They are the first in what will be a series of guides that put the spotlight on different aspects of literacy fundamental to students' overall literacy development," he said.

Ms Firth said NSW had an innovative and research-driven approach to literacy that constantly challenges students to improve on their already high standards.

"What the research tells us is what many instinctively know: that literacy is a fundamental life skill, fundamental to our schooling, our development as individuals and to our society," Ms Firth said.

"This is about turning expert, evidence-based research on literacy into balanced, systematic and integrated resources for teachers.

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