



**THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Minister for Education
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister for Social Inclusion

**THE HON VERITY FIRTH MP
NSW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$41 MILLION BOOST FOR LITERACY AND NUMERACY

The Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth have announced details of a \$41 million program to improve literacy and numeracy in NSW public schools.

The program would enable principals and teachers to provide additional support to students experiencing difficulty in reading or numeracy through tailored intervention strategies.

Ms Firth said 114 NSW schools would be allocated between \$138,000 and \$241,000 over the first two years of the program.

“This additional funding will allow schools to choose from a menu of intervention programs to best suit their school’s needs.”

Examples of programs include:

QuickSmart – a numeracy program for students in Years 5,6 and 7 where pairs of students participate in 30 minute lessons three times a week. An eight year assessment of the program shows student growth of up to three years over the 30 week period.

Multilit – a reading tutor program for Year 2 and above based on phonics.

Ms Firth said principals would be able to select an intervention program to help students experiencing difficulty based on their NAPLAN results.

“The NSW Government will provide training to teachers to help them analyse and interpret NAPLAN results so the intervention programs are properly targeted.

“Participating schools will also receive funding to release their best teachers in literacy and numeracy from the classroom so they can share their expertise and ideas with other teachers.

“This mentoring of other teachers, including beginning teachers, supports one of the key aims of National Partnerships which is to improve teacher quality.”

The Rudd Government’s *Smarter Schools National Partnerships* is investing \$716 million of new funding in NSW classrooms over the next five years, with a focus on schools serving disadvantaged communities.

Ms Firth said the NSW Government was also contributing a further \$175 million of new funding to the National Partnerships program.

“While national assessment data tells us that NSW is leading the country in literacy and numeracy, we want to keep working hard to deliver good results.

“This initiative will complement a range of learning programs already available to NSW public schools as part of our record \$14.7 billion education and training budget.”

For the full list of schools go to: www.nationalpartnerships.nsw.edu.au

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