

The Northern Territory Project, Australia

Since August 2016 we have been working with the Department of Education in the Northern Territory. *Read Write Inc.* has been implemented in 46 remote schools with more schools set to come on board in 2019. Remote schools in the NT are small and can have up to 100% of children with English as a second, third or even fourth language. The biggest challenge in these small, mostly indigenous communities is poor attendance, with student attendance rates as low as 30%. Schools teaching *Read Write Inc.* Phonics have achieved improved results in FELA (Foundations of Early Literacy Assessment) and PAT-R (Progressive Achievement Test in Reading) compared to non-*Read Write Inc.* schools. Teachers report that they thoroughly enjoy teaching the programme and that children are more engaged, which in turn is having a positive impact on attendance.

“We now have a common language about early literacy instruction.”

Hayley Goldsworthy, our trainer, was so passionate about phonics and the difference that it can make to children’s lives.

The training was comprehensive and we really appreciated the hands-on activities that gave us instant opportunities for practice.

All our questions were answered and we have connects with Hayley since then via Skype workshops.

We now have a common language about early literacy teaching.

We are able to group students confidently and be responsive to their needs based on a common understanding of their progress. Our planning time has also drastically reduced.

Once everything was set up, a week’s planning and preparation only takes us about 20 minutes.

For a small school with very limited time, that’s really important.

The children have responded very well to the programme.

We saw an immediate improvement in the engagement levels for children with

School Name: Dundee Beach School

Town: Dundee Beach, Northern Territory, Australia

Number of pupils: 25

Age group: Preschool–Year 6

additional needs.

The systematic, sequential nature of the lessons means they understand what it takes for them to be successful.

Do it! RWI is a terrific programme for teaching high quality phonics and early reading.

We love that there are so many elements of reading and writing instruction built in and that once it is all set up there is little preparation involved.

It has meant that we have maintained our lessons right up until the last week of the year.

It sends a really powerful message to our students about our work here at school and our high expectations.