

July 2016

As we embark on the second half of the year, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of our key initiatives that have taken place. This includes the delivery of book packs to children in out-of-home care as part of our *Read to Me* project; the launch of our *Little Big Book Swap* fundraising campaign in SA and the development of five new picture and board books for our *Reading Pack program*. A special thank you to the *RLA* team for all of their hard work and to our partners, suppliers and donors who share our vision to enrich Australian lives through literacy.

Sue Hill, CEO Raising Literacy Australia



Building Foundations for Early Learning – Victorian Libraries

The Little Big Book Club's professional development package, *Building Foundations for Early Learning*, continues to attract great interest nationally. Recently, we were invited to submit a tender to the State Library of Victoria to underpin the Public Libraries Victoria Network's Early Years Literacy Professional Development program. After an extensive application and interview process, our submission was successful and we are now in the early stages of consultation to rollout training workshops across Victoria before the end of 2016. The training sessions will be tailored to support the Reading and Literacy For All: Quality Indicators for Early Years Literacy Programs in Victorian Public Libraries.

Impact 100SA – 100k Grant Presentation

On Thursday 12 May, *Raising Literacy Australia* was one of four organisations invited to take part in the Impact 100SA grant round to receive 100k towards a new program that strengthens SA families. With mentoring from the team at Deloitte, we pitched for the development of parenting workshops in metropolitan and regional SA to foster parent understanding and participation in children's early learning experiences. Other presenters included The Australian Centre for Social Innovation, Zahra Foundation and YWCA Australia. Congratulations to the Zahra Foundation who were voted the overall winner on the night and thank you to the Impact 100 SA collective for the opportunity to be involved in this wonderful initiative.



Pregnancy, Children's & Babies Expo – Sydney, Brisbane & Perth

May and June were busy months as we exhibited at the Pregnancy, Babies and Children's Expos in Sydney and Brisbane. Our book packs were very popular with expecting and new parents and there was a lot of interest in our tip sheets and book lists. With plenty of helpful advice available, we are confident the next generation of parents will be reading, singing, playing and talking with their babies right from the start. Our next stop is Perth from 29-31 July at the Claremont Exhibition Centre. Come and say hello!

A BIG thank you to our donors

A special thank you to our donors who have contributed \$10,000 in donations to the *Raising Literacy Australia Public Fund* during the 2015/2016 financial year. Thanks to their generosity, we can continue supplying picture book libraries in vulnerable communities to support young children and families with limited access to books.