

Rhymes to amuse kids all day long

JULIAN SWALLOW

NURSERY rhymes and bus-driving wombats take centre stage during February's Little Big Book Club.

This month the book club, which is sponsored by *The Advertiser*, features three books that incorporate nursery rhymes with an Australian twist - *The Wheels on the Bus*, *The Three Kangaroos Gruff* and *Blossom Possum*.

The Big Book Club national marketing and communications officer Nicole Marshall said rhymes and stories played a key role in a child's development and babies and toddlers loved rhyme and repetition.

Ms Marshall described *The Wheels on the Bus* as "a classic rhyme that most

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children grew up with". "But it's got an Australian twist with characters and animals," she said.

While the wheels go round and round, a wombat is behind the steering wheel as he ferries his animal passengers around Australia.

The Wheels on the Bus features bright illustrations that make the nursery rhyme come to life.

Ms Marshall said parents could add to their child's experience with a range of activities, such as taking a real bus ride.

The Little Big Book Club provides all parents with babies aged 0-12 months with a free *It's Story Time* reading pack, featuring a copy of the *It's Rhyme Time* book and DVD.

Parents must present their child's Blue Book health record to their library or Child and Youth Health Centre to collect their pack.

For more details, visit thelittlebigbookclub.com.au



MAGICAL: Danielle Leduff and Jack read *The Wheels on the Bus* Little Big Book Club book with Adelaide Transit bus driver Pauline Kedsile. **Picture:** BROOKE WHATNALL

Emergency funds used

Foreign uni pay labelled a trick

POLITICAL REPORTER

SARAH MARTIN



MILLIONS of dollars will be paid to international universities from State Government contingency funding, normally reserved to cover unforeseen expenditure.

Documents obtained under Freedom of Information by the State Liberals show that University College London and Carnegie Mellon University were recipients of contingency funding agreed to last May by the Treasurer.

The Government says the funding, which totals \$3.9 million for UCL over the next four years and a \$504,000 payment to Carnegie, was part of previously declared funding agreements. But the Opposition is accusing the Government of attempting to cover up the payments in a trick of "creative accounting."

"If it was part of the original arrangement it should have appeared in the budget lines as part of the original arrangement," Opposition Leader Isobel Redmond said.

"If that was the case then we would have had that line of questioning open to us in (budget) estimates," she said.

University College London chief executive David Travers said the university had not requested any emergency funding outside the initial agreement signed in 2006. He said he was uncertain why it would be

considered "contingency" funding. "The money that comes to us from the Government is fixed ... and comes in small parcels of funds that we have been accessing according to the agreement," he said.

A spokesperson for the University City Project, administered through the Department of Premier and Cabinet, said funding was made available to the universities as it became due under the agreement, rather than as a lump sum at the start of the agreement.

"Funding related to these Cabinet-approved agreements is held by Treasury and drawn on request by DPC, which then provides the funds to the universities in accordance with the agreements," she said. "These payments are not in addition to previously disclosed funding agreements."

The department said the total financial commitment to Carnegie Mellon, from 2006 to June 30, 2014, was capped at \$22.45 million, while the total financial commitment to UCL's School of Energy and Resources was \$5.78 million from 2008 to 2017.

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