

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE EXPLICIT TEACHING OF LITERACY

Statement by Minister for Education and Training

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training) [2.03 pm]: I rise to advise members of today's launch of the Centre for Excellence in the Explicit Teaching of Literacy internship program. The WA centre for excellence was a McGowan government election commitment to improve the literacy skills of primary school students by replicating the teaching methods of some of the state's best teachers. The centre combines cutting-edge academic expertise from the university with tried and tested practical literacy teaching experience at exemplary schools. Over the past six months in phase 1 of the centre's work, academics from Curtin University's school of education have worked closely with teachers from five public schools with continually high literacy results to develop resources and professional learning for the program.

Phase 2 comprises three rounds of the internship program, with each round to have an intake of 20 interns. The first round of 20 teachers begin their intensive professional learning at the centre this week. As they participate in this program, the teachers will become experts in explicit literacy instruction. They will share their growing skills and expertise with colleagues at their own school and, later, with colleagues at partner schools. Over three years, 60 interns will participate in the internship program and at least 120 public schools will benefit. The centre, hosted by Curtin University, will contribute to the state's achievement of the literacy targets set for the bright future element of "Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity". Focusing on reading and numeracy will give our children the basics they need for lifelong learning, training and employment.