



Primary Program



Key Components of the Books in Homes Primary Program

- To involve whole school communities in creating a “value” for reading.
- To support schools to increase student attendance.
- To motivate families and students to view reading as an “everyday” activity.
- To support primary school children, living in remote and low socio-economic areas, by giving them equal access to books-of-choice as their more advantaged peers.
- To create a legacy of books-of-choice in remote and low socio-economic homes.

What is Books in Homes Australia?

The Charitable Foundation for Books in Homes Australia is a registered not-for-profit organisation committed to providing high quality fiction and non-fiction books to socio-educationally disadvantaged Australian children, many of whom come from bookless households.

The Books in Homes Book Selection Committee meets three times a year to choose the titles that make up the Primary Book Catalogue. This committee includes representatives from the NSW Department of Education, the Children’s Book Council, notable children’s authors, teachers and librarians, and Aboriginal representatives to ensure that our books are diverse, as well as culturally and age appropriate.

Students chose their books from Preview Packs, containing 48 books per term. The children get to see and touch the books before making their selection. Students are empowered when they choose books they would like to own, and are delighted when they receive them with the knowledge that they can also keep them. Repeated reading of books they connect with helps embed a love of learning and reading, and the development of literacy skills.

Since 2001, Books in Homes has distributed nearly 2.5 million books-of-choice to children across Australia. With your assistance, we can provide these benefits to your students and guide them to a rewarding literate future.

What is the focus of the Program?

Disadvantaged children and families – Books in Homes provides nine books-of-choice per year for each student in a participating primary school. Students take these beloved books home to build their personal libraries. This links early learning back to each child’s home, independent of the actual participating school, and helps foster self-driven learning, fun and a connection to books. The criteria for participating schools is that they are located in a socio-disadvantaged area, and have an ICSEA of under the national average of 1000.

Remote and Indigenous communities – The Program aims to break the education inequality found in remote and Indigenous communities where resources are scarce and generational poverty prevalent. The Program ensures these communities are kept in touch with current titles.

Preservation of Indigenous culture – Twenty five percent of all titles are written or illustrated by Indigenous creators, ensuring books are culturally appropriate.

Refugee children – The Program also provides families with refugee status who are not literate in Australian Standard English (ASE), the choice of new books they would otherwise not readily access. Exposing children to books in the home environment encourages and promotes a love of reading, as well as improves literacy and shared Australian values in the extended family.

What does the Primary Program deliver?

The Books in Homes Primary Program runs during Terms 1, 2 and 4 of the school year, and provides the following:

Three Preview Packs of 48 books in four reading levels – The Preview Pack allows students to see and touch all the books on offer prior to making their selections. The Preview Pack is then donated to the school library for all to access.

Book Catalogues – Glossy A4 Book Catalogues are distributed to each student each term. They include information on the book titles on offer, an order form, a competition, and a thank you to Sponsors.

Books-of-Choice for students – Each student in a participating school receives nine books per year (three books in each of Terms 1, 2, and 4). These books can include picture books, novels in various genres, non-fiction, graphic novels, how-to books, Indigenous stories, and special interest books.

Book Labels – Books in Homes provides a personalised label or name plate for each book, which emphasises the two most important characteristics of the Books in Homes Program—choice and ownership.

Book Bags – Each term, students receive a sturdy waterproof bag to keep and protect their books.

Caught Being Good books and certificates – Books in Homes provides additional books and certificates for educators to use as tangible incentives and rewards for students. This presents reading in a positive light and ensures it is at the forefront of the students' minds.

Additional opportunities – Each term, students who enter the Book Catalogue Role Model Competition are eligible to win one of the 25 book pack prizes on offer. Furthermore, students can also enter regular competitions published in the monthly ezine *The Bridge*.

Access to Role Models – Each term, and where possible, Books in Homes organises for an inspiring Role Model to attend special Book Giving Assembly to hand out books to the children and to help them aspire to continue reading.

Success stories

"Majella [Catholic Primary School] recognised the benefits [of the Program] that flowed through to our students immediately... We have seen improvement in the children's literacy.... Also in their general knowledge as the diversity of genres is very wide in the books they can select from. I would absolutely, without a doubt, recommend this wonderful Program for all of the aforementioned reasons."

David Barnes (Principal), Majella Catholic Primary School, WA

"At Lithgow Public School, our literacy results have continued to significantly improve since 2012, which we directly link to the students' participation in the Books in Homes Program, as all students now have ownership of books to take home and keep... I would recommend this Program to other schools because it really fosters an enthusiasm for and love of reading in students of all ages. The range and quality of the literature is excellent and guaranteed to appeal to children. The looks on the students' faces when they know their books have arrived is priceless, and the fact that every child is included is so important and genuinely made them feel special."

Donna Guest (Admin Officer), Lithgow Public School, NSW

Cost

The Program is delivered in Terms 1, 2 and 4:

Type of Program	Primary Program
Cost per Student	\$81.90 excl GST

Schools receive the following each year:

- **144 books via the Preview Pack**
- **9 Books-of-Choice per student**
- **9 personalised Book Labels**
- **3 sturdy waterproof Book Bags per student**
- **3 Book Catalogues with competitions per student**
- **3 Book Giving Assemblies per year**
- **Extra Caught Being Good books and certificates.**

Further Information

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