



ROTARY 9630 READING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RRAP) INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR PARENTS*



Information

Description of the Rotary 9630 Reading Assistance Program (RRAP)

The Program is to provide children aged 3-5 years living in drought affected areas with one reading book per month for as long as funds are available as part of a District initiative funded by a District Grant and donations from Rotary members and/or clubs in Rotary District 9630. The areas looked at initially will be the Rotary communities of Charleville, Roma, St George and Mitchell. The exact delivery approach may vary and may include a combination of regular mail-outs (which would be a delight to the children and families), personal delivery by Rotarians, delivery via child-care centres/kindergartens etc.



The Program has the potential, subject to funding, to also include the following initiatives:

- Community bookcases – A bookcase is placed strategically (eg. In a hospital waiting room, at a community centre) with a selection of children's books which can be borrowed by community members and returned. The bookcases are replenished periodically.
- Rotarians and others as reading mentors – This might involve Rotarians reading over the phone, once per week say, to a child; Letters and/or email communication between Rotarian and child discussing a particular book; home hosting/visits
- Children's' reading and activity centres as a feature of family fun days.

Outline of the Benefits of the Program

The effects of drought are long ranging. Drought can have an effect on a child's education especially where funds are limited and resources such as reading books may become an "unnecessary" expense. The Rotarians in District 9630 understand that a love of reading underpins all educational outcomes and feel an obligation to assist. This also fits very neatly with the themes for the 2016-17 Rotary year of "Rotary Serving Humanity" and that of 2017-18 "Rotary Making a Difference".

Specific Details

It costs around \$10 per child per month to provide a reading book and post it home. Each child who is enrolled in the Program by their parents will receive one age appropriate reading book per month, via post to the nominated postal address. The Program can be sustained in several ways. One way, of course, is that the books can be handed down within families or across families in the community. The program will be managed by Allison Hodges, the spouse of the 2017-18 District Governor Elwyn Hodges, assisted by Sue St Clair, an Early Years teacher with over 30 years experience and wife of the 2016-17 Rotary District Governor, Doug St Clair. If additional funds are available (for example through partnerships and/or club or individual donations), then the program can be extended to include the additional initiatives mentioned above and/or additional children.

How to enrol

If you wish for your child or children to participate in the RRAP please complete the [Application Form](#). All applications are strictly confidential and no information will be shared without the specific consent of parents. For further information, contact Allison Hodges or Sue St Clair at rotarydistrict9630@gmail.com or speak with your local Rotary club.