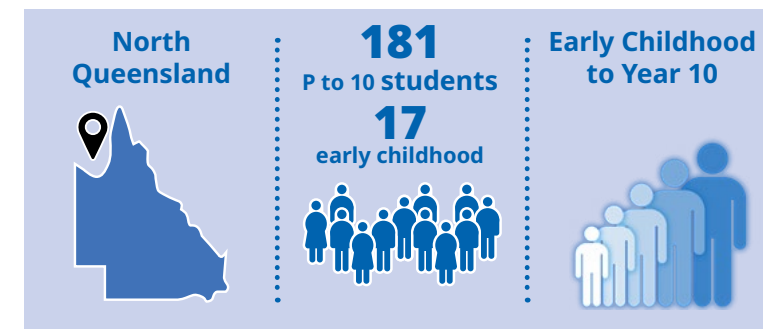


Showcase

Mornington Island State School

Bevan Brennan 'Every Child Needs a Champion': Realising the potential for every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student

Mornington Island State School's new reading initiative is driving student improvement in English. In 2023, school data revealed that many of their primary students were not reading at the expected level. Recognising an urgent need for change, the school launched a whole-school reading initiative. This initiative included high-quality explicit instruction and five-week data-informed teaching cycles. It also focused on community engagement, through the Read and Feed program.



Action

Some of the actions that led Mornington Island State School to be showcased in this category:

- A working party of teachers met weekly to co-design the reading initiative.
- The reading initiative was first implemented in Kindy to Year 2. It was then expanded to include higher year levels.
- The principal prioritised the upskilling of the leadership team. This helped them drive the program and provide a clear vision.
- The leadership team supported teachers and fostered collaboration. This ensured sustained commitment from staff.
- Leaders and staff built their capability in evidence-based reading instruction. Leaders modelled effective strategies for teachers to ensure consistent practices across the school.
- The school prioritised explicit instruction as the foundation of their Tier 1 practices. This involved direct, structured teaching of reading skills, particularly phonics and decoding.
- Staff designed explicit teaching strategies, considering students' home languages and cultural backgrounds.
- Explicit instruction is now extending into Tier 2 practices for students who need additional support.
- Staff analyse reading data in five-week cycles and use it to track student progress and inform teaching.
- The school implemented two programs to support reading: 'Read and Feed' and 'Read with an Adult'. Families and community members regularly visit the school to read with students. This strengthens a culture of reading and highlights the importance of reading at home.

Impact



Improved English achievement in Prep to Year 2

A 51% increase in students achieving a C or higher from 2023 to 2025



Increased teacher capability

Teachers gained expertise in evidence-based reading practices



Increased community engagement

Families and community members are more committed to support children's learning

Effectiveness

Research into highly effective schools supports Mornington Island State School's actions.

Highly effective schools:

- prioritise literacy
- promote the use of effective, evidence-based pedagogy
- value teachers' voice in planning for school improvement
- ensure initiatives are culturally inclusive
- provide systematic targeted interventions for students who require additional support
- engage families as partners to foster support for student learning.

Teachers and leaders in highly effective schools:

- foster collaborative learning and share teaching strategies
- tailor learning experiences for individual student needs
- select teaching strategies purposefully
- analyse data together to inform their teaching.



'It's about creating a consistent, evidence-based approach to reading across the school, while also involving families and the community to make it a shared journey.'

Mr Luke Bowering, Principal