



Case Study – Books in Kimberley Homes

Summary Report
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This summary is prepared by Hyde Park Media and based on the case study '*Books in Kimberley Homes*' by Nous Group.

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How Royalties for Regions helps provide books for Kimberley kids

The Royalties for Regions program has provided \$320,000 to fund the Books in Homes program in schools throughout the Kimberley.

The program aims to help disadvantaged students foster a love of reading by buying and distributing to students books that they have personally chosen.

With the help of the Royalties for Regions (RfR) funding, the project was extended to include the 4,800 students in all 42 pre-school, primary and intermediate schools in the Kimberley region which has a high proportion of Aboriginal communities.

What does the project involve?

The Books in Homes program aims to provide remote and low socio-economic students with access to books of choice.

It is run by the Charitable Foundation for Books in Homes Australia, a Sydney-based organisation established in 2001.

The ultimate aim is to break the cycle of education inequity and intergenerational poverty by helping children and parents obtain access to books in their homes with school support and leadership.

Funding enables students from participating schools to choose books which are then delivered to the school and given to the students for them to keep.

The result is that more books are available in students' homes than might otherwise be the case.

The 42 schools taking part in the Books in Homes project in the Kimberley have some of the lowest education outcomes in Australia, including low literacy levels.

But the foundation had been limited in its ability to attract funding to expand its programs into such remote areas.

Royalties for Regions (RfR) and the then Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations each provided \$320,000 in funding for the Books in Homes program to be introduced throughout the Kimberley.

The project began in 2009 and ran until 2014.



The project is likely to benefit Kimberley communities by providing greater access to books, more engagement in learning and improved literacy among disadvantaged students.

The project also enabled the foundation to improve its services; attract funding to expand; and improve its internal operations, such as better managing its client school database and improving its website and use of social media.

As well, it provided the opportunity for the foundation to greater understand the challenges of its clients and improve its services to other isolated schools in Australia. It did this by helping the foundation:

- Develop a stronger understanding of remote service delivery, and
- Refine its delivery processes.

What is the feedback?

The Royalties for Regions funding helped the Book in Homes foundation build capacity to attract support to deliver its program in the Kimberley and opened up new learning opportunities for the students involved.

The following are typical comments about the project:

“The school sends in a list of enrolments, they then compile a spreadsheet which allows us to select the books that the students want. We email it back and they translate it into the boxes of books that they hand out.”

Principal, participating school

“Their understanding of the needs of children and schools in remote areas, including Indigenous remote students, has improved. Initially, they assumed that it would take a week from Sydney. They have realised that you have to take three weeks and they are able to deliver, even in the wet season. The books are delivered successfully.”

Principal, participating school

“They’ve had to learn the mechanics of distribution to isolated and indigenous communities—students from an entirely different socio-economic background.”

Director, Kimberley Development Commission



“We still have funding in Kimberley. We have funding from mining companies. We have funding from Air Force headquarters. All that funding would not have happened if not for the (Kimberley) project.

General Manager, Books in Homes

“We have employed new staff now. One built the website and developed the database and expanded their skill set. We now adopt/use a social media campaign promoting Books in Homes and to attract funding.”

General Manager, Books in Homes

“We needed to be able to showcase a successful program in the schools. It gave us credibility and profile. It proved that we can deliver a program in remote Australia—which is challenging.”

General Manager, Books in Homes