



For Immediate Release

Wednesday 18 February 2009

## **THÉRÈSE REIN ADDRESSES LITERACY LEVELS IN INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES**

Thérèse Rein will be the guest speaker at an intimate lunch held by the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation [ALNF] on Tuesday 3 March. The lunch will highlight ALNF's critical work in improving literacy levels in Indigenous Australian communities and to expand support from a network of Australian leaders.

Ms Rein will speak about her commitment to improving literacy levels in Indigenous communities. Her work and keen interest in Indigenous literacy give her a unique perspective that allows her to support the important work of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation.

Other guest speakers include Mary-Ruth Mendel, Founder and Chair of ALNF, and John Phillips AO, Chancellor of The University of Western Sydney and member of the ALNF Board of the Public Fund.

ALNF develops and implements programs to teach the most marginalised Australians how to read and write. ALNF works with Indigenous communities from pre-school right through to young adults, refugees and disadvantaged youth. ALNF also supports a broad range of individuals (teachers, carers, healthcare workers, community workers, volunteers) in building on their skills to develop good literacy practices in their families and communities.

ALNF believes that literacy and numeracy skills are a critical element in enabling all people to fulfil their dreams. Without these skills individuals, families and whole communities are powerless in realising their full potential.

“By teaching people to read and write we are opening up their world to personal, social and economic possibilities. We need to act now to support those most marginalised from these possibilities so that they too can have the opportunity to participate on an equal playing field,” says Founder and Chair of ALNF, Mary-Ruth Mendel.

[www.alnf.org](http://www.alnf.org)

Date: Tuesday 3 March

Time: Arrive 12pm for 12:30pm lunch

Venue: Utopia Art Sydney, 2 Danks St, Waterloo

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