

MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Book Toting Youth: Literacy Packs a Hit in Tennant Creek**

In the last two weeks, many in the Tennant Creek community may have noticed young people and children toting conspicuous bags emblazoned with the words LITERACY PACK across the black or blue satchels.

The resource packs -- provided by the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) to every Tennant Creek High School (TCHS) student and selected Tennant Creek Primary School (TCPS) students -- are part of the ALNF's ongoing Community Literacy initiatives in Tennant Creek.

"To practice any skills, you need to have the right tools," stated Eric Brace, Executive Education Advisor from the ALNF. "Literacy is no exception. The resources should prove valuable to students, teachers and families."

Each Literacy Pack contains a dictionary, notebooks, pens and pencils, highlighters and various other resources, generously donated by stationary supplier Officeworks. In addition, each pack includes a novel or nonfiction book that students can take home, read, share with family and swap with friends.

An initial distribution occurred at both schools on Wednesday, 29 October, which TCHS Assistant Principal Pauline Davenport indicates was both timely and suitable.

"The resources are fantastic and of great quality," said Ms Davenport. "They are much need in a community like Tennant Creek, where access to materials and reading material can be quite limited in the home environment."

Students scoured the resources and scanned the books, giving the materials a hearty sign of approval. Both parents and students have responded enthusiastically to the resources, prompting some to refer to the materials as "high quality literacy showbags".

"I was personally surprised," reflected one parent, Karan Hayward. "My son just leapt into the resources and started to write in his notebooks. Then, he kept pulling more and more items from the bags."

The Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation is committed to encouraging literacy across the community, across home and school and across generations. ALNF, TCHS and TCPS are unified in their commitment to the importance of language and literacy in the home, school and community. The Literacy Pack initiative is only one piece of a puzzle that includes the ALNF's other initiatives in the local community, including First Language Literacy and Community Literacy Support.

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