

Press Release

The Australian Association of Special Education would like to congratulate Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham for endorsing Australia rolling out a Year 1 phonics screening check based on new research from the UK.

The benefits of introducing such screeners in Year 1 would see early identification of children experiencing difficulty in learning basic reading skills (letter/sound correspondences) enabling early intervention. It would also provide the opportunity for schools and teachers to refine their knowledge and skills in evidence-based reading instruction, especially explicit and systematic instruction in phonics.

This assessment only takes between four and nine minutes and assesses the child's ability to identify sounds associated with letters and letter combinations, to blend these sounds and say the word aloud. The inclusion of non-words removes the possibility that children will reach the benchmark because they recognize the words as a whole.

The Australian Association of Special Education calls on states and territories and other professional teaching associations to ensure that this opportunity is provided for all Year 1 students across Australia to give them the best start to their formal learning of basic reading skills.

AASE is a broad-based non-categorical association concerned with all who have special education needs. It supports educators at all different levels in education to ensure a Quality Education for All. It has 563 members across Australia and is represented by State Chapters in each state and territory across Australia and is managed by the National Council comprising of representatives of each state and territory.

Media Contact

Karen L Wilson



Vice President

Mobile 0400441208



**Australian Association of
Special Education Inc**

PO Box 1221,

Burwood NSW 1805

<http://aase.edu.au>

Vice Presidents:

Vice Presidents:

Megan Cavanagh

Karen Wilson

Karen Wilson