



Providing a Statewide Speech and Language Service

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Language Leadership Schools Initiative

The Language Leadership Schools Initiative is a professional learning program designed to build the capacity of educators to embed successful speech and language strategies into programs within their schools. This initiative is suitable for:

- Teachers in the early years
- Principals
- Deputy / Associate Principals
- Specialist teachers (e.g. Learning Support Coordinators/ EAL/D teachers)
- Aspirant or lead teachers

Principals of participating schools are invited to nominate teachers to participate in an intensive professional learning program in speech and language.

Please note: Schools can determine how many teachers they would like to attend this program. Having two staff members attend provides an opportunity for supported collaboration and sharing of ideas and strategies from the learning. Schools may opt to send staff members who may adopt or hold a speech and language role within their school.

The program consists of 4 full-day workshops, one per term. Prior to each workshop, participants (Language Leaders) are provided with pre-reading pertinent to the workshop topic. Language Leaders are expected to implement action research within their classroom and schools between workshops.

There are three parts to each action research task:

1. Trialling of **strategies** that have been introduced
2. Trialling an **activity** with a class or group of students
3. **Sharing** of information, strategies and activities to school staff

Schools are assigned a Support Officer, Speech and Language (SOSL) to support Language Leaders via regular consultation throughout the year. This collaborative, follow-up support is to assist Language Leaders with implementation and reflection on the action research.

With knowledge, training and increased confidence developed through the program, Language Leaders are then able to share workshop material, and provide leadership, collegiate and student support within their own schools. Language Leaders have been able to present to parent groups at Kindy Café's and orientation sessions, share with colleagues during staff meetings/collaborative team meetings, or present at School Development Days. Some have held after-school events for their school community/network. Sharing of knowledge has also happened by working shoulder-to-shoulder with peers in the classroom.



Role of SEMLDC & Outreach Service

The South East Metropolitan Language Development Centre & Outreach Service will provide:

- 4 days of professional learning in the areas of speech and language
- Access to resources and strategies that support each area of language
- School-based support through collaborative consultation

Role of Language Leadership Schools

Participating schools provide:

- Educators to become school leaders in speech and language
- Teacher relief for each nominated language leader to attend workshops (a total of **4 days per educator**, for the year)
- Additional time each term, per language leader to enable a Support Officer Speech and Language (SOSL) to provide in-school support and collaborative consultation (negotiated with the school)
- Recognition of the importance of oral language and encouragement of its inclusion in all curriculum areas throughout the school
- Opportunities for the selected participants to run school-based workshops and act as mentors for their colleagues

Role of the Language Leaders:

- To attend and participate in all 4 days of professional learning
- To maintain regular contact with the SOSL assigned to the school
- To carry out the action research tasks as outlined in each professional learning module, including sharing of ideas and resources during each professional learning day and via Connect
- To organise and facilitate speech and language professional learning within their schools based on information provided over the 4 days

Topics covered in the Language Leadership Series

The program covers **8 modules** of professional learning related to speech and language (receptive and expressive).

TERM	WORKSHOP	TOPICS COVERED
1	Day 1	Introduction to Speech and Language ¹ / Semantics and Vocabulary ²
2	Day 2	Morphological Awareness ³ / Speech ⁴ / Phonological Awareness ⁵
3	Day 3	Grammar ⁶ / Narrative ⁷
4	Day 4	Pragmatics ⁸ / Language Leadership Extension

Cost & Registration

The cost of the program is one fee **plus** relief costs:

- \$150 for the year (per language leader)
- relief costs will vary depending on the number of staff attending from each school, and these costs are covered by the participating school

Morning tea and lunch are provided on each day of professional learning. Schools must register for the series via the PLI calendar: <https://plis.det.wa.edu.au>.



What others have said about Language Leadership ...

"The support and chance to **engage with research** and knowledge is invaluable. I **thoroughly enjoyed** and honestly **learnt a lot** from this PD."

(Tara W, Deputy Principal, Leinster PS)

"A **fantastic** course! I learnt so much and have really **grown a lot as an educator...**"

(Nicole O, Teacher /Literacy Leader, Leinster PS)

"Loved the **practical ideas / examples** that I could take back and use in my classroom"

(Xochilt D, Teacher, Forrestdale PS)

"The [sequenced] PL with integrated action learning was **excellent**. I have learned so much and have greatly increased my understanding of effective literacy education ... **This PL was high quality and highly impactful.**"

(Brendon W, Principal, Leinster PS)

"Loved the **practical tasks**. Loved the **resource sharing**. Loved how we **reviewed key messages** consistently"

(Cathy H, Teacher, Ranford PS)

"Practical **strategies and resources** I can easily use"

(Annette J, Teacher, SEMLDC)

"This is a very **informative** program. The action research component is very beneficial as it helps to **put the new information into practice making it more meaningful** ... the collegiate sharing each day is extremely beneficial"

(Carla M, Teacher, East Kalgoorlie PS)

