

| Name | Comment |
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| Mark | <p>Teachers know how to teach literacy, especially early childhood, the problem is they are so flat out managing class sizes, social issues, Covid, and other things thrust upon them at a moments notice. Teachers are not machines, you can't push buttons and expect them to respond instantly. Teachers do what they do because they are committed to teaching, and do what it takes. Teachers don't appear to be well respected in this state, or Australia. Other countries like Ireland treat teachers a whole lot better, especially in retirement. Here they seem to be not respected as well. Women still have less opportunities than males as well. There, I've stuck my neck out.</p> |
| Clive | <p>For a start sit all the kids at a desk facing the front so that they can all see the blackboard, and ban mobile phones in the classroom.</p> |
| Pauline | <p>Get better teachers, you can't tell me a child can get all the way through Primary school without 1 teacher noticing they can't read or write. You don't pay more money when the jobs not being done right, doesn't matter what trade it is.</p> |
| Wayne Sue | <p>Overhaul the schools and especially the teachers. I've lived all over Australia but the literacy in Tas is on another level. Easy - more teachers & free education at all levels.</p> |
| Rachel | <p>Fund Teachers Assistants over summer like you do teachers to encourage more into the field, we just need more one on one or smaller group, often there's enough funding, just not enough TAs</p> |
| Nick | <p>Saw slower teen kids doing comprehension in high school i worked in. Were read old crap USA medical reports about disease to be quizzed on. Kids basically said whats this shit? Didnt blame them.for that comment. School.wondered why they had nil.interest in reading School library with books was removed. Books shredded. Converted into a coffee lounge. Where hyped up teens bought coffee from 8.30am . Management liked it as subsidised coffee made.them feel superior.</p> |
| Len | <p>It's pretty simple. Make parents read to their kids as much as possible. Give teachers and schools more authority to discipline children and not put up with such crap. I am a teacher, returned to Tassie last year after 14 years away. I am appalled at how poor the education level is in Tassie!</p> |
| John | <p>Dedicated teachers of English make reading more interesting for the students.</p> |

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| Fiona | correct spelling on signage would help |
| Melody | Teachers aids, not keeping the same old teachers that have been in the same town all their lives and are bias, funding, better training. Surely it's not that hard to see the problems |
| Mark | I think literacy is more important than a multi million dollar stadium. use the 700million dollars earmarked for a football stadium to increase literacy instead |
| Peter | Spend more money on education. It needs serious systemic change from the top down |
| Nola | |
| Anne | Reading in the home from a very early age is to be encouraged. |
| Michelle | Some years back, a wonderful teacher trained volunteers in reading groups at our local school. Perhaps, it is time to pay groups of specifically trained literacy assistants. I was one of the volunteers. This would be a job incentive with a positive outcome for all. |
| Peter | Teach the parents literacy so they can enthuse their offspring. |
| Elizabeth | Re-introduce the weekly test every Friday in Primary schools. |
| Keren | Make learning fun, and use Indigenous models of teaching.... |

In 2017 and 2018 I volunteered to assist in the Literacy Program at Huonville High School. Each volunteer was assigned a student, who had been identified as requiring assistance with their literacy skills. An in-service was provided to the volunteers outlining a framework to be utilised in measuring the achievements of the student. A Teacher's Aide was the volunteers resource person and she would also provide a selection of books from the school library, based on the assessed competency of the student.

There were few opportunities for the volunteers to meet together to provide mutual support and to clarify issues amongst themselves. The weekly program included 2 hours each day twice a week. It became increasingly evident that the program wasn't supported adequately by the school and the in-service was sadly lacking. For example by the end of second year of my involvement I asked the Principal about the volunteers legal responsibility to report any concerns relating to suspected abuse or neglect of the student that the volunteer was responsible and was told that we had that mandated responsibility. It had never been raised with us previously. Secondly in my 2 year term very few volunteers remained in the program into the second year. The program did not resume in the third year. Many of the volunteers expressed their suspicion that the program was designed to take the troublesome students out of the classroom and the volunteers role was merely one of babysitting. A real wasted effort.

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| Steve | |
| Christian | Stop taking \$\$\$ out of the department of education. Simple. |

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| Steve | Here's an idea, how about taking some of the funding from the private schools and direct it to the public schools |
| Mauren | Get rid of TV's and video games and phones. Montessori way of educating our children |
| Caroline | Well a good start would be to make sure that all families are included fairly in schools..... |
| Jill | ' Comprehension' was a subject in my early school days so having to read then answer questions or having a 'book discussion' could be a good gauge of literacy levels and a way of sharing information and opinions. |
| Cindy | Get back to basics, teach proper punctuation. This drives me crazy with my kids |
| Sue | montessori schools are needed in tas. |
| Linda | I went to school..could not get reading or spelling to sink in...needs to be help for the struggling learners..I always got put out.. |
| Gail | I can read it and I am very sad there are reportedly so many in our beautiful state who cannot! What has changed, I most likely learned by rote but it worked!!!! Why reinvent the wheel. Too many new ideas which, in the end, do not work. Go back to what is tried and true. Reading books gives a chance to escape, it elevates the mind and sends us on untold adventures. Give every child a library card and encourage them to visit their local. Its the way my Mum started me on a lifetime of literary escapism! She took me to the library, got her books for the week and I was allowed to get mine. It was heaven. We did it together and I learned there was a world out there I could join in. As long as I returned those books in a fortnight I could journey anywhere. Make the local library an important place to visit again. Begin good habits in the early years. |
| Alyssa | More Teacher Assistants in classes |
| Kerry | By educating the teachers on how to teach kids to read in uni!! Duh |

My daughter and 3 other children in her friendship group had Perceptual Dyslexia (Irlen Syndrome) & needed Irlen Lense glasses to be able to read. They went from struggling readers who hated reading to fluent avid readers in no time. Such an easy fix. GP Dr Sue Fricker in Hobart introduced us to Irlen Lense glasses which neutralise the problem completely. She told us up to 80% of people would benefit from the Lenses and not reading on white background paper. Please, please have children who struggle to read tested for Irlen Syndrome. You could change their worlds with such a simple test and fix. My daughter is at uni now. I dread to think where she would be without them. We are forever grateful to Narelle Preece for telling us.




Kath

start early reading to babies & toddlers - go to the Library & if you struggle to look after yourself please, do not have children they require energy and commitment

Lee

Dead simple solution. Get rid of all the educators who try to be all things to all people and replace them with Teachers who teach "The Basics" such as Discipline, English Expression, English Literature, Mathematics, History, Geography and Science. Teach children that it's ok to lose as long as you try. Start marking tests with the old method of percentage 50% you pass 49% you fail! That's reality folks. Stop interfering in the Parental up-bringing of children, it's not your job. Finally "Teach The Facts - Tell the Truth and get back to REALITY."

Robert

Easy... back to writing  Rithmatic... spelling and embracing... Kirsha Kaechele... 24 Carrot  Gardens... we have it all here !!!! To our history... Captain Cook... Macquarie etc... three vege with dinner or as the say in Tasmania... Tea 

Anne

Books , books and more books. Reading, reading and reading from tots until they can read. BOOKS ARE FRIENDS.

Susan

More support in the classroom, for funding to be pretty much instant to children who need a teachers aide (not make them wait till the follow school year) more focus time on literacy in the early years. Get back to the basics at a school. Worked well for many many years until someone decided that, as it wasn't broken it should be changed

Hayley

Jono

How about more focus on literacy and numeracy in schools? I know it's a wild idea but it might just work. Don't give them access to technology that uses autocorrect.

Sean

How about teaching them the traditional way. Start playing games marching sounds and letters with pictures. ??

Clare

My kids learnt to read before they went to school with library books read to them every night

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| Heather | <p>Make it possible for those without having degrees to teach it A degree, a police check and training should be adequate.</p> |
| Janet | <p>Easy. NO funds for private schools - better, doze them all down and end this odious system.</p> |
| John | <p>FUND public schools properly, and this mean adequate staff and resources. SIMPLE.</p> |
| Terry | <p>Improve the literate level of teachers first My 4 year old started kinder this year and asked his teacher for a home reader like his brother has. He gets 4 books each week now . Even tho teacher said we do that yet. That's how to do it.</p> |
| Allegra Patricia | <p>As an educator in my younger years, I introduced Organic Reading. Participants choose words in their experience and want to know about or are provided with material that they would be interested, example comics, car mags, tech stuff, their choice. Works well. Being in nature and using the associated terminology is very inspiring. Teach it in schools better.</p> |
| Steve | <p>It is up to the parents to teach their children basic reading spelling and talking properly...way too much is expected of teachers in this regard nowadays.</p> |
| Elizabeth | <p>Smaller Classrooms More teacher aids Family meal time needs to be around the table with the phones put away! Children need to see parents reading books parents read to children over many many years from birth until they leave home.. Daily Get children involved in daily literacy tasks , eg. grocery lists , job lists around the house , playing games , scrabble etc ... get children to write in journals Encourage children to write and illustrate stories, read what they have written .. get pen friends for children cooking and reading recepies To be honest the list is endless</p> |
| Victoria | <p>Encourage kids to put down their devices and pick up a book it starts in the home from day one</p> |

I think it really comes down to smaller classes, more TA in classes and even more speech path to do the assessments. There are so many referred speech children I know waiting to be seen (over 1 year in 1 School I know).

Maybe PS in tas should be more consistent in their lit prog as well. I am in a unique school position this year that has taken me straight from the classroom to being across a number of schools. The lit programs range from initialit to jolly phonics to spell my way and the assessment tools are just as broad. Some prog are def better than others and some schools are def doing it better than others. The lit leader job is good but again...some schools do it much better than others and I understand that the role fits the schools needs but I still see some amazing models and some not so amazing (and that is coming from staff comments as well). Happy to speak more on it if needed. I feel to get comment straight from the classroom teachers is important as sometimes lit leaders and SS have a different idea of the programs or school effectiveness.

Lisa

Try introducing reading from real books and reading aloud, this would go a long way towards inspiring our children to love books.

Sean

Teach your children well....

Well you can start by teaching children how to write back to a,b,c, dog, cat,etc with a pencil and paper, this is crucial for learning the basics, same goes for maths, for children to actually write out (with pencil & paper) the times table, when they do this a few times it starts to stick in their little brains, also can improve their writing.

Lois

Meghan

Employ teachers that actually teach, would be a fantastic start!!!

More (and better trained teachers), especially those who can teach children with special needs. More concentration on spelling skills, like drills and rote learning (as I used to have to do as a child), with spelling bees etc. more concentration on reading of books rather than screen-time. Increased funding for all public schools, especially for those in disadvantaged areas; there is too much discrepancy between these and schools in more socially advantaged areas: there must be more equality.

Karen

Teach reading writing arithmetic and basic life skills. How to fill in forms to apply for jobs, tax returns. Basic nutrition. How to cook or how to use tools etc. In final 2 years skills to get a job and how to drive so they can get to jobs.

Elizabeth

I know not all parents can do this, but stay home with your child until school age if you can. Do lots of reading and writing activities with them.

Michelle

Claire

Evidence based instruction!

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| Sophie | I'm sure there is a myriad of issues. But one thing I'd say there are many children with dyslexia and other learning challenges that are not picked up. Then even if they are, many of our schools are not equipped with how to teach them. Humans don't all learn the same way.... |
| Dorothy Sue | Hold the teachers and school staff accountable and provide remediation classes. Unclutter the curriculum. |
| Charmaine | More focus on literacy and education in general, and less focus on sport. Tasmania has one of the highest illiteracy levels in the country. |
| Tamara | It's appalling that so many children leave school barely being able to read! We need more books in school libraries not screens for a start!! |
| Bridget | Let's just waste more time and money when we already know the answer! Orton Gillingham from school age. |
| Anne Margie | Children need to be able to read. Enjoy reading. Get excited about it. iPhones TV and children not taught to read are the real cause of the lack of enjoying books. Some people have the view that children will learn when they are ready!! Some might BUT a lot won't if they are not encouraged. |
| Jenny | Employ more qualified Teacher Librarians in Primary schools. More dedicated time is needed in the classroom to literacy. Curriculum is overloaded with other subjects and electives. |
| Ali | Please start in the schools. More attention needs to be given to the 3 Rs so we don't have the problem later. Make reading and spelling the highest priority when children start school at the age of 5 or 6. |
| Lucie | It's simple: give teachers more time so they can prepare quality, differentiated programs based on the science of reading. Key here: TIME and space. |
| Elizabeth Nicholas | It could be improved by more children actually being in school rather than dragging about with parents going shopping. I've wondered if truancy is an acceptable part of life since I have lived here. BOOKS before screens! |
| Rebecca | Provide systematic and cumulative literacy instruction from the early years! Teach all teachers how to implement the science of reading. Ensure children have access to scientifically proven literacy interventions and screening! Fund it properly and Utilise and value experts in the field. Teachers, speech pathologists. The amount of students I see with low literacy levels going year after year without the correct interventions and supports is heartbreaking! |

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| Amanda | Bring back functional libraries in schools with librarians. Fund early intervention pre screening tests for 0-5. Bigger focus on teaching oral literacy. |
| Diana | It all begins with small children being read to and then more reading time in Primary Schools. My experience in Schools here in Tasmania is poor to put it mildly. |
| Jocelyn | Open more libraries in all the towns, or bring back book lending busses . Let parents go into primary schools to help read to children. Promote scholastic at home programs. Air more Australian pre school shows. Teach singing at an early age. |
| Barbara | The best way to improve literacy levels is to read books. Children don't seem to read much any more and the study of classic English literature has gone by the board. |
| Diana | Drop NAPLAN and prescriptive teaching, allow teachers to teach their classes in a more creative way (with enough resources)... and make sure teachers have permanency. |
| Anne | By leaving it to the people who are trained to do it. Stopping Naplan and making learning fun again. |
| Morag | I think if we stop ripping funding away from public schools, and pay teachers in a way which reflects their important role in society we'd make a fair start. We also need to make adult literacy services more available and stop ripping THEIR funding away as well. But I suppose it works well for the LNP if no one can read doesn't it |
| Dorothy | Better teacher training, more prescriptive curriculum and monitoring. Better accountability. |
| Jennifer | Go back to teaching English in schools ..go back to the old ways of teaching Reading..Writing ..English..Maths ..etc etc ..our Education system is broken ..and our teachers are not taught the basics either ..today's Education is not geared for teaching children things that actually matter .. |
| Kate | By recommending all primary school classes start the school day with silent reading or the teacher reading. By recommending school classes have time each day for students to write stories or journal. |
| John | By giving appropriate Centrelink recipients reduced reporting requirements if they volunteer to assist with either student literacy or adult literacy. By encouraging adults to meet as reading and writing groups and providing meeting venues in local libraries and community halls or RSL clubs. By giving every newborn an Australian children's story or poetry. By employing additional literacy assistants in schools to give children a flying start. |
| Brigid | Spend a bit more on public education Fund education appropriately perhaps.. surely educating our future is more important then mythical football teams? |

Jillian

Pay more money to keep decent teachers, and only hire teachers with good literary skills.

Gaby

Increase unemployment money above poverty level plus give money 4 rent. Less stress better learning

Kathy

Start reading to babies very young.. talk to them etc ..

Lynne

LOWER CLASS SIZES

Nobody will change the way Tasmanian people think nor the messages they pass onto their children. If the example parents and siblings give is to never open a book then children will do the same. If they see others they admire getting joy out of reading then they will want to join in. If books are read aloud by teachers in class and it's fun then they will want more. If a competent storyteller (like me) can demonstrate what rollicking good fun a story can be, face to face, they will want more. If library visits are a happy experience they will want more. If they experience the joy a story can make them feel they will want more. They will value reading and pass that on to their own children one day. Afghanistan has an illiteracy rate of 47% which is the same as Tasmania. One is a war torn country the other has no such excuse. BUT if reading is shown to be valued by those we love that is a good start. I know poverty is at the bottom of everything wrong in Tasmania but in this case it's a change in values we need to encourage. But I'll say it again... Nobody will change the way Tasmanian people think.

Kym

Clare

Teachers are a good start. Reading rather than computer games.

Accept that there is no one way for a child to become literate. Check their learning characteristics and differentiate the program. Children who have poor short term memory really struggle with phonics. Children with an outstanding visual memory can learn to read easily using highly visual strategies. Children are motivated to learn by using interest based books such as the personal experience books that used to be created for beginning readers. Hunger, trauma, homelessness etc will limit learning opportunities for many. Of course there are many factors but some of these are easily addressed.

Geraldine

Implement in disadvantaged schools a Raising the Bar Closing the Gap Program as happened in 2007/2010 AND resource and maintain for 15 years to force generational change. Refer to the UTAS evaluation of that program. I was part of the evaluation team and was impressed with what schools were doing and how they were reorganising their schools to better meet the needs of students. It was sad for schools to know that they couldn't resource the program from their own resource package. A three year program is meaningless. It's time for government to step up and commit to a long, long term program in these economically, socially and educationally disadvantaged communities. One school was implementing the RTBCTG program was still experiencing the same challenges as I had when I was principal there 30 years before. Acting on short term government or departmental whims does not lead to long term change. Are you up for the long haul?

Bill

Simple! More teachers- smaller class sizes and a whole lot more support for the teachers still in classrooms. Reduce the numbers of Ed department employees off class and get them all back at the coalface instead of them making more work for those still left in classrooms. From a retired teacher of 33 years.

Peg

Leah

Phonics from Kinder!

Centrally fund literacy intervention package licences and training for high schools. To purchase a package like Macqlit costs in excess of \$5,000 when the training is taken into account.

Chris

By the time the school I work in has its two programs up and running we will have spent well over \$10,000 before we see a single child.

Phil

Make the curriculum more interesting and relevant to kids and have it taught by properly trained literacy teachers.

Tony

Get rid of all the modern day woke left curriculum and return to a curriculum that focuses on the 3 R's! It worked in the past. And before any woke left know it all squawks, I was doing Form 3 maths before I left State School. Was taught proper English expression and could spell proficiently. Read books prolifically. 5 decades on I'm able to perform mathematical calculations for my work without a calculator! I wasn't watching games on iPads!!

Irene
Carleen

All individuals accessing unemployment social security have a literacy test and have access to literacy classes. Achievement to be rewarded with an increase in benefits.

All prisoners incarcerated for more than one year have access to literacy classes and release be conditional upon some level of individualised achievement.

Kids at school to have vastly increased access to one on one literacy support and diagnosis of dyslexia.

All takes money and effort. Neither of these two things means ongoing stagnation which translates into poor mental health, low health literacy and chronic poverty.

Sing, play and dance in early years