



Premier of New South Wales



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES

I am pleased to offer my support to the Mountains Outreach Community Service on the launch of the *Paint the Blue Read* program.

The Mountains Outreach Community Service makes an outstanding contribution to the community through the provision of supported activities and services to families in the Blue Mountains. With its local partners, the Mountains Outreach Community Service contributes to a comprehensive and integrated service system that helps create strong and resilient families.

Paint the Blue Read recognises the importance of promoting early literacy. Everyday interactions with parents and carers, such as sharing books, telling stories, singing songs and talking to one another, develop the foundational skills necessary for learning to read and write in school. As with other early childhood experiences, positive early literacy experiences can have long lasting effects and contribute to future academic successes.

Every child should have dynamic early literacy experiences. I encourage the community to support *Paint the Blue Read*. After all, “it takes a village to raise a child.”

I warmly congratulate the Mountains Outreach Community Service and offer my best wishes for its ongoing work to support families in the Blue Mountains.

Nathan Rees MP
Premier