

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



BARRY O'ROURKE MP

Member for Rockhampton



BRITTANY LAUGA MP

Member for Keppel
Assistant Education Minister

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COVID-19 won't stop the Premier's Reading Challenge

The 2020 Premier's Reading Challenge has kicked off, with Central Queensland children encouraged to access digital libraries and re-discover old books on the shelf at home.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said the Challenge would be a little different this year due to COVID-19.

"I'm excited to announce that the reading period starts today, with students in Prep to Year 9 encouraged to read as many books as they can," she said.

"This is the 15th year of the Premier's Reading Challenge which is all about getting children engaged with books and developing a love of reading," she said.

"Not all students will be able to physically borrow books from their school library, but that doesn't mean they can't get involved.

The Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke said students can read books at home, listen to an audio book and access the wide range of resources on the Premier's Reading Challenge website.

"The State Library of Queensland has a wonderful range of digital books while students can also check out their local library's website for online resources.

"There's also the [Queensland State Schools eBooks Digital Library](#), [BorrowBox](#), [Project Gutenberg](#), Reading Centre, Dandiiri Library and much more."

He said reading was a crucial part of a child's journey.

"We know literacy is a powerful tool which gives children the best start at school, but also builds a solid foundation that shapes every aspect of their lives," he said.

The Challenge runs from today through to 28 August for Prep to Year 9 students. Children in early childhood education can also take part from 17 - 28 August.

Families can also utilise Channel 7's [learning@homeTV](#) program and Channel 9's [reading@hometv](#) programs as part of the Challenge.

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Students who speak English as an additional language or dialect, along with Indigenous students, can choose to read e-Books in their first language.

For more information, visit <https://readingchallenge.education.qld.gov.au/>

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