

On the trail of a reading campaign

DEB BOGLE BOOKS EDITOR



SHARING TIME: Penny Wong and her partner Sophie Allouache support the Little Big Book Club swap.
Picture: MATT TURNER



BEDTIME stories with her two daughters are a highlight of her days when Federal MP Penny Wong's election campaign schedule allows her to be at home with partner Sophie Allouache. Senator Wong and Ms Allouache have still found time to be ambassadors for the Little Big Book Swap to help raise awareness of everyday literacy for all children and adults across South Australia.

"As a child growing up in a small town in Malaysia, reading made my world larger, more colourful and more fascinating," said Senator Wong.

Now she shares that love of books with her girls Alexandra, 6, and Hannah, 1.

"As a parent, reading to our daughter is one of the best parts of my day," she said. "When I'm in town I'll try to be home for bedtime ... and I miss it when I'm away.

"It's wonderful to share that time ... to watch them learn, to listen to Alexandra's questions about, and imagined additions to the story."

Organised by Raising Literacy Australia, the campaign aims to encourage individuals, businesses, schools, libraries and community organisations to host their own Little Big Swap on Wednesday, June 1, International Children's Day. Everyone brings a book to share, with every swap costing a gold coin, raising funds to support the development of literacy resources and programs.

Asked what book she would take to share with others, Senator Wong nominated *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney — "because it is so life-affirming" — and Mem Fox's *Good Night, Sleep Tight*.

Join the Little Big Book Swap fun at Rundle Mall all day next Wednesday, under the Gawler Place canopy, or to organise your own Book Swap, find details and full event kits at thelittlebigbookclub.com.au