

MEDIA RELEASE

New mentoring initiative to support emerging SA writers and illustrators

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Raising Literacy Australia is delighted to announce a new, two-year partnership with the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation to establish a mentoring program for aspiring children's authors and illustrators.

The *Author and Illustrator Mentoring Initiative* will provide four emerging artists with professional mentoring support by well-regarded, established creators to hone the artists' skills as well as exclusive, hands-on access to publishing practices such as editing, graphic design and pre-press production.

At the conclusion of mentoring, the successful applicants' works will be published by Raising Literacy Australia's publishing house, Little Book Press and distributed to over 21,000 children across South Australia.

The key objectives of the project are to:

- Provide professional development and employment opportunities for emerging picture book authors and illustrators
- Support emerging artists to develop their artistic practices and create new audiences for their work and
- Provide employment opportunities for established authors and illustrators in a mentoring role.

Raising Literacy Australia's Chief Executive Officer, Sue Hill, said that this program provides much needed support for children's creators who currently have limited professional development opportunities to refine their craft.

"This partnership will help to nurture the next generation of authors and illustrators in SA and kick-start their careers in children's publishing. The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation are committed to supporting the career pathways of artists and this unique project speaks to that commitment" Sue Hill said.

The mentoring initiative is open to South Australian residents aged over 18 years. All entries will be assessed by a selection committee on a number of set criteria via an application process.

Applications will open on Monday 6 August 2018 and close Friday 5 October 2018.