

# News Release

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# Tony Piccolo MP

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## Students Rise to the Challenge

Students in the Light Electorate have risen to the *Premier's Reading Challenge* with great enthusiasm according to local member Mr Tony Piccolo MP.

Mr Piccolo said that over 3,777 students in Light were now reading books as part of the *Premier's Reading Challenge*.

At a special presentation held this week as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Community Cabinet, students representing schools within the Light Electorate were presented with their medals by the Premier, the Hon Mike Rann.

Mr Rann said he was very proud of all the students in South Australia who were taking up the challenge to enjoy reading and to read more books.

"I started the *Premier's Reading Challenge* in 2004 because I was really concerned that children were missing out on experiencing the fantastic world of books and reading." Mr Rann said.

"Many parents told me they were concerned their children were spending too much time watching television and playing computer games."

"So, we looked at various reading programs and we came up with the idea of the 'Olympics of Reading'"

"Every child who puts in the time and effort to read 12 books would be a winner and awarded a medal, just like athletes at the Olympic Games."

"This is the sixth year of the *Premier's Reading Challenge* and today I will be presenting the first legend medals, which follow the champion medals from last year." Mr Rann said.

To commemorate the special presentation all schools and preschools received a book for their school library or preschool.

Younger children received the brand new book written to celebrate the arrival of the giant panda bears at the Adelaide Zoo called *Wang Wang and Funi*.

*Wang Wang and Funi* is written by the highly regarded South Australian children's author Phil Cummings.