



94% of parents considered the
Programme had benefited their child.

Macquarie University report



A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark, curly hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a white shirt and a small earring. The background is a faint, grey architectural floor plan.

bill108

bill108

building kids futures

For years I have read about the lack of a meaningful rise in indigenous childhood literacy. Countless studies have shown the levels of reading, writing and numeracy remain substantially lower for indigenous students than for their non-indigenous peers. So in 2005 I decided The Exodus Foundation should do something to address the issue.

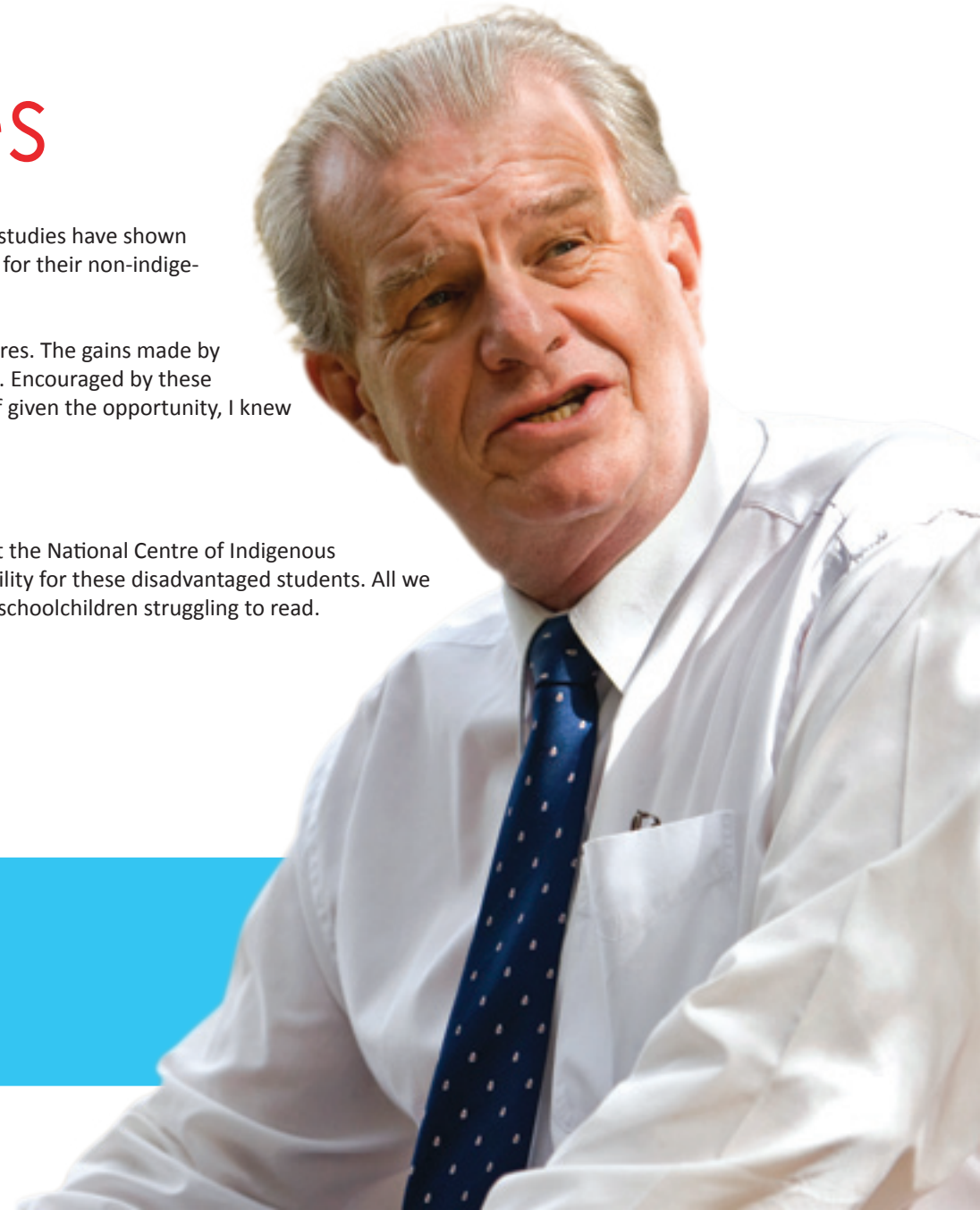
We started by enrolling more kids from indigenous backgrounds in our existing literacy Tutorial Centres. The gains made by these students were impressive and comparable with the gains made by their non-indigenous peers. Encouraged by these results we opened a small indigenous specific literacy Tutorial Centre in Redfern in 2007. However, if given the opportunity, I knew we could do even more.

Now that opportunity has arrived.

The Exodus Foundation is planning to open a new purpose built literacy Tutorial Centre in Redfern at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence. Our new facility will cater for up to 108 students each year. *bill108* exists to build this facility for these disadvantaged students. All we need is you. Please give to the *bill108* campaign and help change the lives of even more indigenous schoolchildren struggling to read.



Rev. Bill Crews, AM
Founder & Executive Chairman
The Exodus Foundation



Now I can read and spell
lots of words.



inspiring kids



I don't think I ever liked school before I came to The Exodus Foundation Tutorial Centre. It was difficult. I didn't know how to read carefully and understand what to do. I didn't know how to spell many words correctly.

Now I can read quickly and clearly and spell lots of words accurately. I can easily understand comprehension activities and finish my work. When I grow up I know that I will be able to get a good job and earn good money all because of The Exodus Tutorial Centre.

My favourite story was The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame.

I also want to say a big thank you to Rev. Bill for all the prizes and another big thank you to all the teachers who have been teaching me.



Before I came to the Tutorial Centre I didn't know how to read big words and now I can. When I kept coming I learnt more and more. Also, I liked the prizes that Rev. Bill bought for us. Thank you.

I liked doing spelling and sentences and doing PPP reading. I like coming to school to learn more and I like recess and lunch. I have almost read a whole book. In my spelling class I like doing our spelling test and I like doing sight words.

Next year I would like to be a volunteer and come help other kids read. When I grow up I'm going to get a good job. I think I want to be a policeman or a doctor.

My favourite story is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.



On average our students make
gains of fifteen months in reading
accuracy.

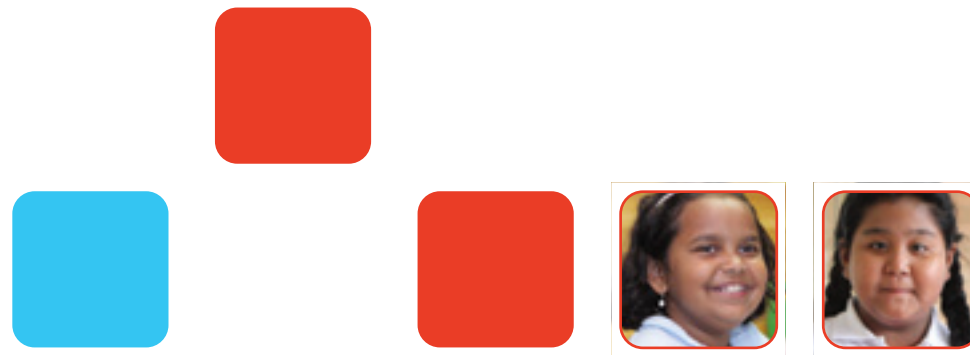
Macquarie University report



Students have developed a love of reading,
pride in their achievements and
hope for the future.

Prof. Kevin Wheldall – Macquarie University

empowering kids



Before I came to Exodus Tutorial Centre I wasn't polite to my class friends or teachers. I didn't know my comprehension. I didn't like to do school work and would be naughty to get out of it.

Now I am a fast reader, a good hand shaker and make good eye contact.

Now I can read 205 words per minute in Repeated Reading. I can also understand what I am reading because I have worked hard at my comprehension.

Next year I want to come back as a Pause Prompt and Praise reader. My favourite book was Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Before I came to The Exodus Tutorial Centre I didn't use any punctuation. I could not read quickly because I used to miss words out.

I couldn't do neat hand writing and I didn't always follow the classroom rules.

I can now spell a lot more words and know what to do if I need a word that I can't spell. I even know about morphographs now.

I also know that respecting other people at learning time is important. Thank you Rev Bill and everyone else. I liked listening to Phil read Singenpoo Shoots Through by Paul Jennings

Where are you going?

Homegroup

HELP

Kokrin

Melissa

Tyrone

Before, I couldn't spell. Now, it feels good to read and write.





It wasn't easy,
but it was worth it!

mum's stories



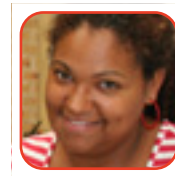
Aidan attended the Exodus Tutorial Centre in Redfern last year. He was in year 5 (11 years old). Aidan has always enjoyed going to school for the social interaction.

While he was attending Exodus he never wanted to take a day off school! Seeing his improvement with reading was really exciting for his father and me.

Aidan now does his homework on his own and is much more organised. There are no more arguments to get his school work done. His confidence has increased dramatically and he knows his capabilities.

Aidan is practicing and preparing much more for school. Aidan now enjoys reading and his concentration has really improved. He is definitely more confident and other people's opinions seem less important.

My husband and I are very grateful that Aidan was given this opportunity. We know that his life will definitely be better and easier from this opportunity. Thank You.



When Tyrell (pictured left) came to the programme he was two and a half years behind his school mates in reading and comprehension skills. His self esteem was low and he was too scared to say anything in class and I think he believed he was too stupid to be any better.

I struggled to get him to look at a book and was very worried about his future. After just 20 weeks Tyrell's reading and comprehension levels improved to such an extent not only was he level with his peers but six months ahead!

When he realised he was not stupid, he began to grin from ear to ear. My son is a completely different boy now, he wants to be a doctor!



94% of parents considered the Programme had benefited their child.

Macquarie University report





transport

Our programme is delivered, over a 20 week period, in a classroom setting off-site from a student's mainstream school. During this period it is vital that students establish and maintain a high level of attendance during their enrolment in the programme.

To ensure this occurs, The Exodus Foundation provides a daily transportation service to and from its Literacy Tutorial Centre.

Our students are picked up 5 days a week from their mainstream schools in and around the Redfern area and delivered to the Literacy Tutorial Centre for each lesson. At the conclusion of each day's session, students again board the bus and are driven back to their mainstream schools for the remainder of the day.

Though costly, The Exodus Foundation will, at the new Literacy Tutorial Centre, continue to maintain its school bus and dedicated full time driver.

Our commitment to this crucial element of the programme will be underpinned by engaging a local commercial bus company to assist with additional transportation needs.



our teachers



Our teachers are professionally qualified and trained. Their commitment to innovative teaching techniques, including positive teaching and refusing to negatively label a child is a cornerstone of our programme's success.

Teachers, working in collaboration with Macquarie University, conduct comprehensive programme analysis, reporting and measurement. They have clear performance measures, and maintain rigorous data collection procedures.

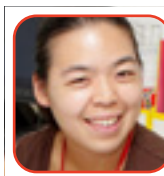
Staff also administer pre and post standardised tests at two collection points, initial enrolment and again post completion. The results of gains made by students of indigenous backgrounds are comparable with gains made by their non-indigenous peers.

In short our average indigenous students gain:

- 15 months in reading accuracy,
- 14 months in comprehension,
- 16 months in single word recognition,
- 15 months in spelling,
- 39% increase in words read per minute, and
- 27 months in non-word reading ability.

Our Tutorial Centre Programme achieves an attendance rate of greater than 74%.

Our teachers continue to change the lives of indigenous students struggling to read one day, one student, at a time.



Our students average a **39%**
increase in words read per minute.

Macquarie University report





the programme

The Exodus Foundation's proposed new Literacy Tutorial Centre in Redfern is a literacy programme that will cater for up to 108 urban primary aged indigenous students every year.

Our programme is designed essentially for children who have failed to learn to read by the usual methods in the first few years of school. We offer this programme, free of charge, to schoolchildren who are at least two years behind their chronological age in reading accuracy or who have been identified by their mainstream schoolteacher as being at strong risk of disaffection from school because of their low literacy levels; and who do not have the financial capacity to access private tuition.

The programme, MULTILIT (Making Up for Lost time in Literacy) is a collaboration between The Exodus Foundation and MULTILIT Pty Ltd – a research initiative of Macquarie University and has been going for over a decade.

MULTILIT is divided into two distinct sub programs; MULTILIT and MINILIT. Each of these sub programmes relies on a vision which applies; a non-categorical approach to instruction, in other words not labelling a child; Principles of Positive Teaching with particular emphasis on data-based instruction, classroom behaviour management; and an interactive model of literacy instruction.

The MULTILIT programme will cater for students between years 4 and 6 in a primary school setting. It is an intensive, explicit and systematic literacy programme specifically designed for low progress readers who have begun a cycle of failure in their regular school classroom. The Exodus Foundation's new site in Redfern will also house our early intervention programme MINILIT (Meeting Initial Needs of Literacy) that targets students from years 1 to 3.

The children enrolled in the MINILIT programme will attend the new Centre for one hour each day for 4 days a week over a period of 20 weeks. Children are identified through local schools and are encouraged to enrol. We provide transport to and from a student's mainstream school to our Literacy Tutorial Centre.

The student to teacher ratio is one to five. Volunteers deliver an element of the Programme after completing training in special reading and literacy training techniques. Volunteers spend five sessions each week with a child.

New Location – A Centre of Excellence

Our new Centre will be housed in the Indigenous Land Corporation National Centre of Indigenous Excellence. This exciting, state of the art facility will co-locate a number of not for profit organisations who provide programmes or services specifically designed to address indigenous opportunity across particular areas including; sport, arts and culture and education.

Left: Artist's impression of the new Literacy Tutorial Centre.



Since 1996 over 1,000

students have completed our programme



It's all about a fresh start, and
giving the students the means to
lift themselves up.

Rev. Bill Crews

how you can help

For too long there has been a lack of meaningful rise in the literacy levels of Indigenous schoolchildren.

At Exodus our Literacy Programme is changing this one student at a time. This exciting and innovative programme not only teaches struggling kids to read but provides them with a path forward to achieve at their mainstream school.

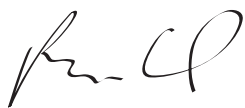
The demand for our programme has grown significantly in recent years. Due to our current financial commitments we are quite simply unable to meet the increasing demands of Indigenous schoolchildren struggling to learn to read.

The *bill108* Campaign will raise a minimum of \$3 million to establish a new Literacy Tutorial Centre at Redfern and ensure the ongoing development of the programme.

All donations made to the *bill108* Campaign are fully tax deductible and may be spread over a three year period. Contributions may be made in equal or varied amounts.

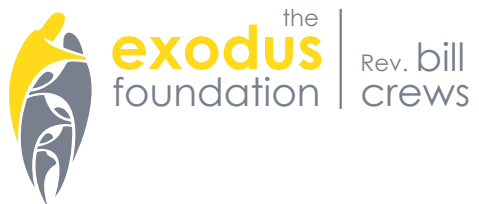
This project also offers a number of opportunities for us to acknowledge your gift by associating your name, the name of your choice, or the name of your organisation, with one or more parts of the capital works and our student sponsorship programme. Equally, we will respect your request for anonymity. The items in the attached list are just some ideas for your consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any other thoughts you may have.

Your gift will help The Exodus Foundation will make this project a reality.



Rev. Bill Crews, AM
Founder & Executive Chairman
The Exodus Foundation





Photography courtesy of

Julianne Marie Photography

Founded by Reverend Bill Crews AM in 1989, The Exodus Foundation educates children struggling to read in five Tutorial Centres across Australia, feeds the homeless and provides medical care and welfare to the poorest in our community. For more information about the *bill108* Campaign please contact us.

The Exodus Foundation • 180 Liverpool Road, Ashfield NSW 2131
Telephone: 02 8752 4600 • Fax: 02 9798 8867 • Email: bill108@exodusfoundation.net
www.exodusfoundation.net