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Ridge kids take to reading with Books in Homes

JULIE Bishop, Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, was in Lightning Ridge on Wednesday to congratulate teachers, parents and students on the success of the Books in Homes initiative.

The program provides three books a year for primary school children to take home and keep.

On average each book was read by at least seven people, children involved in the program borrowed more books from the school library, and for the first time ever there were a number of parents coming to school to select books from the library with their children, headmaster Peter Partridge said.

Ms Bishop toured the school, presented book awards to children "caught being good" (an award she considered a great initiative) and discussed the new Schools in Partnership program introduced this year.

Mr Partridge said the school now had about 25 indigenous workers in the school, "and it gives a really lovely tone to the place," he said.

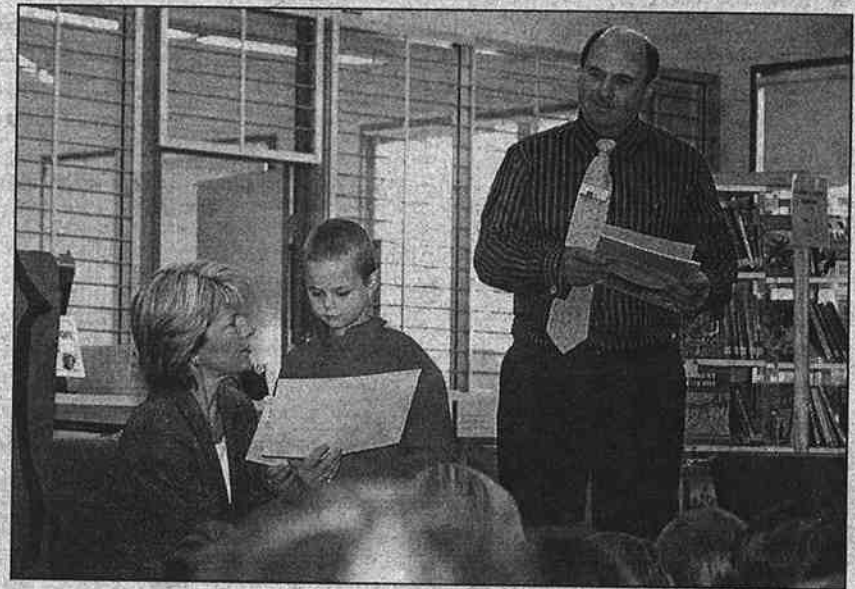
The schools' discipline policy was working well with less disruptions in the classroom, he said.

"The children are much more settled and know that if they misbehave teachers will follow through, and if they are sent to the positive thinking room then their parents will get a phone call.

"The teaching assistants, teachers and CDEP workers get on so well and that spirit goes out into the community and reflects well on the school," Mr Partridge said.

"We have three new workers who will be visiting indigenous parents to talk about their children's schooling - another initiative in the Schools in Partnership program in working with parents where they feel most comfortable talking about their children's education.

This week they will hold Child Protection training for 30-35 workers in the school to improve a consistent approach to children and to provide guidelines to protect teachers.



Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop presents Jett Tishler with an award for "Caught Being Good" while principal Peter Partridge looks on.