

FAQs

What is the Ready Readers Program?

The Queensland Ready Readers volunteer program was announced in the discussion paper, A Flying Start for Queensland Children. The program will train volunteers across the State to support schools in their early years reading programs.

What will be the role of the Ready Readers?

The Ready Readers will be working with individual children. They will help children gain confidence with their reading and become independent readers. Volunteers will have a specific format to follow.

Will I get paid?

Volunteer work is unpaid. It is an opportunity for individuals to become involved in the activities of their community and is a matter of choice for the individual.

How many hours do I need to volunteer?

Individuals can nominate the hours they have available for the program. However, we do ask that whatever hours you commit to are regular and can be sustained over a period of time.

What if I hear information about a student?

At all times you will need to maintain a high degree of confidentiality. Any information which may be shared with you during the course of your involvement with students must remain strictly confidential.

How will I know what to do when I am working with students?

All volunteers will receive training from experienced Department of Education and Training staff. You will be trained in the Ready Reader process. Throughout training there will be opportunities to participate in practice sessions as you become competent in the process.

What other training will I receive?

Induction for all volunteers will be provided, particularly in relation to Student Protection policy and procedure and health and safety procedures.

How will I find a school to partner with?

In each Department of Education and Training regional office there will be volunteer coordinators. It will be the responsibility of the Regional Coordinators to connect schools with Ready Readers. You will be able to nominate your preferred locations.

When I am in a school who looks after me?

The volunteers in schools will always be under the direction of the Principal. Volunteers may work with individual teachers or across classes, but the school Principal is responsible for all activities at the school.

Will I need to undertake any criminal checks?

All volunteers will need a blue card. The Working with Children check is a detailed national criminal history check, and allows people to be issued with the blue card. This card is needed by any person proposing to work in a paid or voluntary capacity, or to carry on a business, in a child-related area. More information is available about the cards at www.ccyipcq.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/

How will I get my card?

The process for applying for a blue card will be undertaken during the training, so you do not need to do anything yet. It will be coordinated by the Regional Coordinator, at no cost to you.

Where will the volunteering take place?

All Ready Readers will work in schools. As part of your introduction to the school where you will be placed, your work environment, daily routine, and access to facilities will all be explained to you. This will be part of the thorough induction to the school you will receive at the local level.

What if I already volunteer at a school?

The Ready Reader program is for a specific purpose of supporting schools in their early years reading programs. Schools already use volunteers in many capacities, and this program will not take the place of any existing programs. This will be an additional program.

How will I know what to do if I encounter a problem during my volunteering?

Your first point of contact will always be the teacher with whom you are working. They will be able to sort through issues for you, and solve any problems that may arise. Open communication will be the key to working through issues.