NEW CENTRE TO IMPROVE CHILDREN’S READING SKILLS

The Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth today announced that services would be strengthened for students with reading difficulties living in rural and remote areas.

“An expert advisory panel has proposed the establishment of the NSW Centre for Effective Reading to replace services previously provided by the Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School.

“The proposed Centre will provide three levels of service – universal, targeted and intensive – and will significantly increase the services available to students with complex reading problems living in rural and remote NSW.

“These service levels will be better placed to provide intervention when it’s first needed and more effectively provide access to services to those families affected by distance and isolation.”

The proposal includes providing new assessment and intervention services through three campuses, with two located in regional NSW and a third at Royal Far West Manly.

“The two regional centres will mean students and their families can access diagnosis and intervention closer to home.

“In addition, a new intensive residential clinic will also be provided at Royal Far West for those children with the most complex reading problems.

“The clinic is based specifically on a model provided to the panel by parents and will work with families on the best way to support long term reading problems.”

Ms Firth said in response to the advice, the Education Department would almost double the resources invested in the service.

“I’m pleased that we now have a stronger model that responds to the latest teaching methods and has taken into account the feedback we received from our parent forums.

“The Centre will take on a much stronger role in professionally supporting teachers and engaging in university sponsored research to better inform and guide its ongoing work.

“The programs run by Dalwood had not been reviewed in more than 30 years.

“I’m pleased that we will now have a new model that uses that most up-to-date and effective teaching methods and assessments to get the best outcomes for students.”