

Reading Writing Hotline

1300 6 555 06



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Bendigo adult literacy programs ready to help with reading and writing New Year's resolutions

The Reading Writing Hotline is urging people in Bendigo who want to improve their literacy skills to make it their New Year's resolution to call the Hotline on 1300 6 555 06.

"Help is at hand in Bendigo and surrounds, with local providers such as the Bendigo TAFE, North Melbourne Institute of TAFE, Euchuga Adult Literacy Group and Avenel Neighbourhood House offering free or low-cost programs," said Reading Writing Hotline Manager, Vanessa Iles.

"Reaching out for help is a brave decision that I have seen change many people's lives for the better.

"It's amazing the strategies people can invent to cope or hide the gaps they may have in literacy and it's equally amazing how much of a difference it can make when they do overcome their fear and seek help.

"We're urging people who have trouble with reading and writing to start a new chapter in 2017 by calling the Hotline," Ms Iles said.

The national hotline provides free support for about 3000 people a year across Australia. This week it marked its 150,000 caller.

The biggest group of callers to the hotline are men aged between 25 and 44, from an English speaking background who finished school before year 9.

Ms Iles said they often report either recently coming out of employment and finding it hard to get back in due to new literacy requirements or feeling that they are going to be 'found out' having poor reading or writing skills.

"Often they have worked in construction jobs or manual industries that did not require literacy skills and now they're having to retrain or apply for jobs with quite significant gaps in their literacy levels," she said.

"We also get calls from parents who just want to be able to help their children now they've started school, and from people who find it hard to keep up with the reading required in emails or paying bills when so many day-to-day activities are now being done online.

"The hotline has 10 fully trained and experienced teachers who are qualified in teaching adult literacy to give advice, find the right material for people or find them local services that can give people the help they need," Ms Iles said.

People can call the hotline on 1300 6 555 06 or go to www.readingwritinghotline.edu.au

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...or visit us online at:

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Media contact:

Jenny Stokes 0478 504 280