

Charles Darwin University's (CDU) School for Social and Policy Research plays an integral role in the implementation of the National Accelerated Literacy Program (NALP). NALP is jointly funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) and the Northern Territory Government through the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET).



The National Accelerated Literacy Program (NALP) is a nationally funded program designed to improve the literacy standards of students who are currently failing to read at a level deemed appropriate for their age. The Accelerated Literacy (AL) approach provides teachers with a number of steps that make students familiar with the context and purpose of written discourse, and has been successful in remote and Indigenous communities because it targets children with limited literary experience in the home.

CDU's role is to provide the strategies and resources to support the Department of Employment, Education and Training with the implementation of the program across 100 schools, 700 teachers and 10,000 students by the end of 2008. A comprehensive educational research program has been put in place to define and develop the methodology that will ensure sustainable literacy improvements through effective educational reform and managed change.

The research focus for NALP is on the codification, verification and refinement of the current practice, with a number of additional research projects designed to extend the program beyond its current capacity. These projects can be divided into 5 core areas:

1. Teaching and assessment (writing, oral language and comprehension)
2. Early childhood
3. Other genres (non-narrative texts)
4. Adult literacy
5. Distance education
6. Program evaluation and improvement

For more details go to: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/sspr/NALP.html>