

April 27, 2021

Media Statement

**NEW BOOK SERIES VALUING CHILDREN SECURES HERITAGE LISTING**

Perth-based not-for-profit The Valuing Children Initiative (VCI) has released a four-book series for kids that aims to help families honour the key needs of the next generation.

Launched by Professor Fiona Stanley AC and VCI founder Adjunct Professor Tony Pietropiccolo AM at an official event at WA Museum Boola Bardip last week, the picture books focus on the charity's pillar values of Growth, Safety, Voice and Listening – and feature iconic Australian flora and fauna.

Dubbed the Four Pillar book series, the stories combine the talents of Perth-based author Natalie Caudle and illustrator Aleshia Zappia, and are intended to act as an effective tool for shaping early child literacy.

In a partnership with sponsors Westbooks, one thousand sets of the books – which have been added to the State Library of WA’s heritage section – have been donated to WA primary schools, a further 250 sets to WA regional libraries and 100 sets to Perth Children’s Hospital.

VCI Development Executive Madeleine McLeod said the books were being well received by children and children’s wellbeing advocates alike.

“We’re thrilled that, as we’d hoped, the feedback is that through their compelling narratives, the books are sparking learning and meaningful discussion between kids and adults around the topics of voice, safety, listening and growth, which are integral to creating a community that values children,” she said.

“Each tale follows a native Australian animal character such as Kelvin the Kangaroo and Ellie the Echidna, as they learn more about one of the above themes and, at the end of the stories, there’s a ‘reflection page’ with key questions that may be put to children during reading.”

A free book was also provided to every child who attended the 2021 Valuing Children Day in January and Perth Heat players have visited year 1 students at St Benedict’s School to read the books

“The VCI believes in a society that values the participation of children and, to make this a reality, we must begin by encouraging them to think critically about their rights at a young age,” said Ms McLeod.

Funds raised through the sales of the series go towards continuing the work of the VCI.

Books are available for sale at select bookshops, or can be purchased from the VCI for $12 apiece\* or $38 per set of four\*. (\*Plus postage, if buyer unable to collect from Perth CBD.)

Please email mmcleod@valuingchildren.com.au or smilne@valuingchildren.com.au to order.

*Further information about the Valuing Children Initiative is available online at valuingchildreninitiative.com.au*

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