



# National Year of Reading 2012



ANITA HEISS –  
"READING IS THE KEY  
THAT OPENS THE DOOR TO  
EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE."

Photo: Amanda James

Anita Heiss writes children's, adult and historical fiction. She has been published widely and performs her work internationally. She is an Indigenous Literacy Day Ambassador and a Books in Homes Ambassador, and she supports the National Year of Reading because "reading is the key that opens the door to every aspect of life". Anita's latest book is *Paris Dreaming* and her next book, *Am I black enough for you: a memoir on identity* will be in bookstores in 2012.

Anita says, "I realised reading was the key when I met young Indigenous Australians who couldn't read and therefore didn't have the same opportunities as those who were literate. They were without the chance to have a certain form of entertainment, they couldn't escape to different places and times via novels and other books, and indeed, they couldn't get through some basic parts of the day like reading important information like warning labels and street signs. Every aspect of our daily life requires us to be able to read."

"Through the Indigenous Literacy Foundation ([www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au](http://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au)), we have the people on the ground to run programs and choose the appropriate books, but it will take a much greater community effort to ensure that eventually *all* our kids will have the same reading abilities as their non-Indigenous urban counterparts.

"I hope that all my books challenge non-Indigenous readers to consider their own perceptions of, and engagement with, Indigenous Australia. For my Indigenous readers, I hope they see some of themselves and / or their history, culture and community on the pages of my books."

Thanks to all our founders, partners and friends for helping make the National Year of Reading 2012 possible.

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