

Giving the gift of reading:

Pass on a Book launches the Mumbai Reading Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sydney, NSW

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Pass on a Book, an initiative of The Australian Voice Clinic and Sydney Speech and Language Centre, has launched the Mumbai Reading Project, which will supply children in the slums of Mumbai with the basic tools to help them work their way out of the poverty cycle.

With the involvement of schools, community groups and businesses across the Northern Rivers regions of New South Wales and the Sydney metropolitan area, *Pass on a Book* will collect new and used children's books to send to India. "We hope to be able to expand the project to other locations over time," explained David Barnier, founder of *Pass on a Book*.

Mr Barnier said, "**The Mumbai Reading Project** depends on individuals and organisations to pass on new and used children's books and financial donations which will then be sent to India for distribution through our professional outreach network in the slums of Mumbai.

"Many children around the world simply do not have access to books to enable them to learn and practice reading. This project is an attempt to engage ordinary Mums and Dads to help solve one of the root causes of so much poverty in the world, the lack of an education and the lack of a basic skill that we in the west take for granted – simply being able to read," said Mr Barnier.

Mumbai, India has one of the largest and most poverty stricken, English-speaking areas in the world. **The Mumbai Reading Project** is an opportunity to demonstrate that Australians are concerned for the relationship between the two countries, and that average Australians have a generosity of spirit that far outweighs the violence and hostility reported in the media over recent months.

How can you help?

- Donate new or used children's books to the *Pass on a Book: The Mumbai Reading Project*
- Establish a collection point so others can pass on children's books
- A financial donation to assist with shipping and handling donated books

Pass on a Book: The Mumbai Reading Project is a joint initiative of The Australian Voice Clinic and Sydney Speech and Language Centre. The Australian Voice Clinic and Sydney Speech and Language Centre treat paediatric, adolescent and adult patients with speech, language and communication difficulties from the Sydney metropolitan and Northern Rivers regions of New South Wales.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION / INTERVIEW REQUESTS

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High resolution images are available to accompany this release.

A 400 word profile article is available to accompany this release.

ABOUT DAVID BARNIER

David Barnier is a speech pathologist, and founder of the Australian Voice Clinic. Mr Barnier graduated from the University of Sydney as a speech pathologist after studying music at Southern Cross University in Lismore, NSW.

The Australian Voice Clinic and Sydney Speech and Language Centre treat paediatric, adolescent and adult patients with speech, language and communication difficulties from the Sydney metropolitan and Northern Rivers regions of New South Wales.

David Barnier has a particular interest in reading and literacy as tools for treating speech and language difficulties. His website, www.top5kidsbooks.com gives parents and carers resources to choose books to accommodate specific learning and development goals.

Links

Pass on a Book: The Mumbai Reading Project – www.top5kidsbooks.com/donate

Top 5 Kids Books – www.top5kidsbooks.com

Australian Voice Clinic – www.davidbarnier.com

Sydney Speech and Language Centre – www.sydneysspeech.com.au