Media Release

Book Boxes to inspire reading while waiting

Residents now have the opportunity to read with their children while waiting at a number of participating organisations across Camden, thanks to new Book Boxes.

The initiative, coordinated by Camden Paint the Town REaD and supported by Council, involves eight wooden boxes, built by Camden Men's Shed, that are filled with a variety of donated books for young readers.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Peter Sidgreaves, said it was the perfect opportunity for parents and carers to switch off their devices and, instead, pass the waiting time with something stimulating.

"As the father of four young girls, I know how important it is to read with our young ones. It not only helps them with language and listening skills, it also improves communication, concentration and works as a stress reliever," Cr Sidgreaves said.

"Camden Paint the Town REaD is an initiative which encourages everyone to read, talk, sing and rhyme with children from birth, and these Book Boxes do just that."

The Book Boxes can be found at:
- Camden Council Administration Building;
- YMCA Mount Annan Leisure Centre;
- Camden Hospital – the Paediatrics Emergency Department and Karitane residential stay;
- Harrington Park Medical Centre;
- Optimal Health Medical Practice, Gregory Hills;
- Salts of the Earth (Salt Therapy Rooms), Narellan;
- NSW Police Force – Camden Police Area Command; and
- Turning Point, Camden.

Cr Sidgreaves also encouraged local businesses with a waiting room to get involved.

"We'd love to help you give your young customers the opportunity to tuck into a great book while they wait, learn something new and expand their imagination," he said.

"We have a variety of donated books just waiting to be added to a brand new Book Box."

For more information about Camden's Book Boxes, or Camden Paint the Town REaD, visit www.camdenkids.com.au. To request a Book Box for your waiting room, contact Council on 4654 7777 or camdenkids@camden.nsw.gov.au

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