



25 June 2021

Dear Wordworks friends and family

I am writing to update you on developments at Wordworks.

As the founder-director, I have invested 16 years, watching the organisation grow and nurturing it to become a resilient and robust sector leader. I have been honoured to lead a team of such integrity and commitment to supporting young children in their literacy journey. While I hope to continue to contribute to the work of this team, I have decided it is time for me to step down as director.

There are many reasons why I am confident that this is the right time for a leadership transition. Wordworks is in a stable financial position, with the support of longstanding donors and confirmed funding for three year projects. Our commitment to collaboration, sharing and scaling through partnerships and open source materials, has meant that we have built strong and lasting partnerships with schools and some of the leading organisations in the ECD and education sectors. We have sound organisational policies, excellent data management systems and robust financial management processes in place. We have a supportive board, strong strategic and management capacity, and an exceptional team which makes Wordworks the organisation that it is.

I am working with the Wordworks board, senior management and our broader team to carefully plan and manage the leadership transition, with a commitment to a 3-month handover process. Wordworks has ongoing materials development and research deliverables in 2022 and I will continue to lead on this work, thereby allowing a new director space to grow the organisation while ensuring that we have continuity in key projects.

Going forward, I will continue to be an advocate and voice for early literacy. I hope to continue to contribute to new content development and become more involved in research on the impact of early literacy interventions.

We will keep you up to date as we take our next steps and trust that you will continue to support Wordworks and the work it does.

Yours sincerely

Shelley O'Carroll