

ALEA 2026 Workshop Abstract

9-12 July, Fremantle

60 minutes

Lighting the Way for Pre- and Early Adolescent Readers: The GriffLinC Online Reading Tutoring Model (15 words)

Theme: Creating Communities (this is a set of 3 choices)

This interactive workshop introduces the GriffLinC Online Reading Tutoring Model, an innovative approach designed to support pre- and early adolescents in developing reading proficiency and motivation through online tutoring. The model combines AI-enabled tools with human adult volunteer tutors, creating a dynamic and responsive 8 step tutoring experience that addresses both cognitive and affective dimensions of learning to read.

Participants will first gain an overview of the GriffLinC model, including its theoretical foundations in literacy education and its practical design for online delivery twice a week for 30 minutes for five months. The research team will share insights from a proof-of-concept implementation, highlighting key findings on student engagement, reading improvement, and motivational shifts. Data shows that 75% of the students who completed 5 months of GriffLinC tutoring made a learning gain on national norm-reference assessments. The findings illustrate that the integration of AI-assisted scaffolding and volunteer-led interaction can personalize learning, sustain attention, and foster performance and confidence in pre- and early- adolescents.

The second half of the workshop is hands-on. Attendees will experience the model in action, practising core tutoring strategies and exploring how AI tools can streamline preparation, monitor progress, and adapt to the individual needs of the students. Through guided activities, attendees will reflect on how these practices can be scaled or adapted for diverse educational contexts.

Target Audience: preservice teachers, educators and researchers

Outcomes: Knowledge about the GriffLinC model, including where to find free online resources and how to adopt and adapt the model for your context.

Author Biographies (100 words) – only lead required at this stage. If the abstract is accepted, other bios will be sought.

Beryl Exley is a Professor of English Curriculum and Literacy Education at Griffith University in Queensland. She is an experienced classroom teacher and teacher educator. Her research focuses on enactments of English Curriculum and Literacies Education that empowers students to read, write, listen, speak and create meaningful texts. She was an ALEA Executive Committee member for 14 years, and ALEA National President from 2017-2019. In 2019, she was awarded ALEA Life Membership and ALEA Principal Fellow. In 2024 she was awarded the Queensland College of Teachers' (QCT) Teacher Educator of the Year and in 2025 was awarded the Australian Association for Research in Education's (AARE) Best Reviewer.