



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**

*Minister for Climate Change and Water*

---

PW 14/08

20 February 2008

## **PENNY WONG LAUNCHES CHILDREN'S BOOK ABOUT RIVER MURRAY**

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, has launched a collection of writing and art by children from across the Murray-Darling Basin.

*Liquid Gold* is an anthology of children's stories, poetry and artwork about water and environmental issues affecting the Basin.

Launched at Ainslie Primary School in Canberra, the book is the culmination of a year's work at schools across the Basin through the Murray-Darling Basin Commission's (MDBC) *Special Forever* program.

*Special Forever* is an award winning educational program that allows children to learn about the ecological and natural resources systems that are such a big part of their lives.

Senator Wong said the words and pictures in *Liquid Gold* provided adults with a timely reminder of the gravity of the challenges facing the Murray-Darling Basin.

"The poetry, prose and paintings in this book tell the story of the impact that water shortages are having on the environment and the families of these children," Senator Wong said.

"Their work reminds us that climate change and water shortages are intergenerational challenges and we must take action to prepare Australia for the future".

The launch was hosted by MDBC Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik, Ainslie Primary Principal Jo Padgham and the Primary English Teaching Association President Margery Hertzberg.

Some of the children read out their published works to Senator Wong and their art work decorated the school.

The *Special Forever* program aims to give children a sense of belonging and pride in the Basin, a greater discussion of the Basin in schools and families and a greater awareness of the topography, land use, cultural heritage and flora and fauna of the Basin.

Copies of *Liquid Gold* are available from the MDBC. Call (02) 6279 0434 or email [info@mdbc.gov.au](mailto:info@mdbc.gov.au)