



READ: St Mary's College students, from left, Samuel Pelham, 5, Eloise Bowden, 4, Eloise Sherriff, 4, Olivia Dransfield, 5, Wesley Robinson, 4, and Alice Murray, 4. PICTURE: RICHARD JUPE

## Giggles over story time

ANNE MATHER

HUNDREDS of children from across Tasmania sat still at the same time yesterday — all captivated by the same story. The simultaneous reading of *The Cow Tripped Over the Moon* brought together children from childcare centres, schools, libraries and homes.

They weren't all in the same place as they shared the story time but were all amused by the same leaping cow.

National Simultaneous Storytime, which was held across Australia at 11am, is an annual event that promotes the shared reading of a book by an Australian author and illustrator.

Two kindergarten classes at St Mary's College in Hobart shared the story, which is a retelling of the classic nursery rhyme by Tony Wilson and Laura Wood. Student Wesley Robinson, 4, said he loved listening to story books — at school and at home.

He said he especially liked stories he shared with his mum.

"I like it because I get hugs and sometimes I cuddle mum when I'm reading," he said. Olivia Dransfield, 5, said she loved reading and finding the letters she could recognise.

"This book has lots of Os in it — like Olivia," she said. The book, about a cow who tripped over the moon and a little dog who "laughed till he barfed", sent ripples of giggles across the class.

# Family violence funding boost GPS devices for offenders

ALEXANDRA HUMPHRIES  
State Political Reporter

TASMANIA will trial electronic monitoring of high risk family violence offenders with portable GPS devices under a \$2.79 million initiative.

The three-year measure will be included in today's Budget and implemented in partnership with the Federal Government.

Each government will provide \$1.4 million toward the trial.

The Budget will also include \$1.68 million to establish a Family Violence and Sexual Assault Unit inside the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and \$3.4 million over four years to roll out body worn cameras for frontline police officers.

A further \$420,000 over two years will go toward an Eligible Persons Register, allowing victims of family violence to opt to be informed of a prisoner's location and progress in the prison system.

The GPS monitoring trial will involve a target group of high-risk perpetrators who have monitoring conditions placed on them as part of a family violence order.

Victims will be able to carry a portable GPS device to enhance the ability of officials to detect breaches, including approaches made to victims outside identified exclusion zones. "With monitoring happening in real time it will help to keep women and their children safe," Premier Will Hodgman said.

The measure is part of the Federal Government's \$100 million women's safety package.

Women's Legal Service chief executive Susan Fahey said she would question whether GPS tracking for offenders should be a priority.

Ms Fahey said funding for prosecutions was needed.

"Subject to the detail of what it's going to be, I would welcome money going into prosecutions, particularly if it's helping victim support and things like that," she said.

Ms Fahey said the Eligible Persons Register was a good move.

Domestic violence campaigner and SHE executive officer Allina Thomas said existing family violence services were overwhelmed and needed more funding.

She said many women experiencing family violence did not seek support and programs should focus on helping those women.

The Budget will also include \$15.4 million over the next two years to continue the State Government's family violence action plan.

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