Koorie literacy coaches ‘raise the bar’

Improving literacy levels among Koorie students is more likely to happen when teaching practices are culturally inclusive, writes Rachel Skinner.

Loddon Mallee Koorie literacy coach Megan McKenzie firmly believes every student has the ability to learn – so long as they know what’s expected of them. Her goal is to help schools tap into every student’s potential. “What we’re doing is raising the bar of the expectations we have of the students and in doing that, we’re closing the gap,” she says.

“We need to raise that bar and have the high expectation, because all students can learn. We’ve got to teach the curriculum in a way they can all access it. This includes differentiating and making the curriculum culturally inclusive.”

Ms McKenzie works for the Literacy Improvement Teams Initiative.

Koorie literacy coach Rachael Marks believes coaching involves improving practice in every classroom. “We’re working shoulder to shoulder with every classroom teacher, developing more culturally inclusive practices,” she says.