

Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment:

For students with Dyslexia and other Learning Difficulties

In Service



Testimonies

The information Karen shared was very much what staff needed to help them understand what to expect from students with different learning needs. Her ability to make the content of her presentation interesting and fun was really appreciated by the audience. She was able to resonate with each and every participant.

Questions were able to be asked at any time and always answered with clarity.

Staff from every school commented to me at the end of the day how much they had learnt and how much they enjoyed Karen's frank, informative and humorous presentation. Everyone went away from the day with activities and strategies to try with all students, not just those with learning difficulties.

Julie Butler Principal- April 2017

- The Big 5 of reading; looking at phonemic awareness, synthetic phonics, sight words and vocabulary
- How to create an inclusive classroom environment to support all learners
- Comprehensive guidelines to ensure consistency
- Strategies, approaches and resources that can be implemented immediately
- Using IT to support students and ideas for class work
- Lots of ideas and practical activities to support learners
- Useful websites with free resources to support the teacher and the students

Workshops can be tailored to individual school needs and can be offered all over Victoria for up to 50 members of staff.



Dyslexia Assessment & Support Services

The PSD Review Report said 'There are widespread concerns that students with dyslexia are not consistently well supported in their specific needs by all schools.'

By creating a 'Dyslexia-Friendly' Classroom all learners will benefit

Workshop outline:

This course will be extremely practical and will provide ideas, activities and resources that you can use immediately in class.

Workshop content includes:

- Understand why some students learn differently
- How the specific weaknesses present in class and advice on screening and assessment tools
- Explicit, direct, systematic teaching- what a lesson should look like

Bookings/ price details : Karen@dyslexiasupportservices.com.au / 0402 225 051

About the presenter



Karen Starkiss

Karen brings over 30 years of experience as a teacher of primary and secondary students in the UK and therefore knows what to recommend and what is practical for teachers.

In England, she was principal of one of the top performing primary schools, despite the fact that she had the highest number of students with severe Learning Difficulties in the county. She has also worked in “failing” schools to quickly improve standards of teaching and learning and helped many schools audit their provision and become inclusive for students with LD.

In 2006 she moved to Australia where she has since established the Dyslexia Assessments and Support Services. Karen has wide experience in assessing dyslexic children, teenagers and adults for learning difficulties and is currently providing in-service professional development to schools regarding creating and implementing dyslexia-friendly schools as well as being part of a number of focus groups contributing ideas and suggestions to improve provision for children and adults with dyslexia and other LDs.

Karen has been interviewed by the Age and ABC radio about her expertise in dyslexia, has advised a government task force in Canberra about supporting children with learning difficulties and run training for school principals, teachers and classroom aides.

During 2013 & 2014 she worked with the education departments in the ACT and the Northern Territory to present a program to help schools become inclusive and accessible to all students; provided training for, School Principals, Expert and Lead teachers and professionals to enable them to implement the program in individual schools

In 2015 Karen was invited by the Wellbeing team at Department of Education and Training Vic to join the Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia Stakeholder Reference Group who advise about supporting schools to become diverse and inclusive for students with Learning Difficulties/Disabilities.

Professional Memberships and Focus Groups:

- 1 of 5 Speld members presenting to the PSD Review Advisory Panel
- Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia Stakeholder Reference Group DET Vic
- VIT Special Needs Stakeholder Reference Group
- Victorian Institute of Teachers
- British Dyslexia Association
- VCAA Special Provision Focus Group

Professional Development Presentations 2016:

SCHOOLS IN-SERVICE for a number of primary and secondary schools throughout Victoria including Government, Catholic and Independent schools.
WORKSHOPS for TAFE and other Organisations for teachers and tutors training teenagers and adults
CONSULTATION WORK IN INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS
WORKPLACE TRAINING for employers including Defence Force psychologists and other staff about making the workplace inclusive for adults with dyslexia.

Recent Conference Presentations:

- Creating Positive Educational Experiences through Response to Intervention -NDCO conference
- RTI Screening and Assessment- Hume South Network
- Three separate workshops covering areas of Inclusion & the Big 6 of Reading- Critical Agendas Conference
- Keynote RTI and Creating Inclusive School workshops (2015) for Mallee Cluster of Schools
- What’s the Problem and What’s the Answer for Creating Contemporary Learning Conference for Catholic Schools and colleges in the Wodonga Network

Work with School Principals and Senior Managers

Presenter on behalf Speld Vic & Department of Education and Training Vic
Developed & presented a workshop for school principals and Senior Managers about ‘Leading Student Achievement through a Whole School Approach to Response to Intervention.’
5 workshops across Victoria followed by a workshop for SSSO’s

Workshop titles include:

- Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment
- Implementing an RTI framework to allow all students to achieve
- Supporting the needs of Students with Learning Difficulties in Class, Small Groups & individually- for ESS, integration aides and specialist teachers
- Develop Language and Vocabulary direct and indirect Instruction
- Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities in your Class- for TAFES and other organisations.
- For Secondary Schools- supporting students with LD; Modifying the Curriculum
- How to Support your child with learning difficulties at home and school.

Workshops are flexible and can be written to suit the needs of individual schools