

Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment:

For students with Dyslexia and other Learning Difficulties

In Service
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Testimonies

An excellent source of PD for Teachers about Dyslexia. Karen is incredibly knowledgeable and is able to transfer that knowledge in an engaging and effective way. From the standpoint of an organiser of Professional Development and also as a participant I have no hesitation in recommending Karen Starkiss.”

Melinda Lichnovsky-Klock CRT coordinator

“Finally! A PD that includes all the important information I need to know AND practical games and activities that I can use in my classroom. Thank you.” *JW - Berwick Primary*

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:

- What research tells us we need to assess to know that a child has dyslexic
- What schools should know before a student begin school
- How to gather evidence and informally assess individual students in the classroom

- How to create an inclusive classroom environment to support all learners
- Strategies, approaches and resources that can be implemented immediately
- Specific support for reading, writing and spelling
- Using ICT to support students and ideas for class work
- How to put together individual programmes for students and meet individual needs
- 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 Support Services
and Educational Resources

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 2015:

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 WORKPLACE TRAINING for employers including Defence Force psychologists and other staff about making the workplace inclusive for adults with dyslexia.

Recent Conference Presentations:

- Keynote Speaker and workshop presenter for Mallee Cluster of Schools
- Presenter for Creating Contemporary Learning Conference for Catholic Schools and colleges in the Wodonga Network
- Presenter for Making Connections Raising the Achievement of Vulnerable Students Conference Tasmania
- Presenter VCAL Showcase on behalf of VCAA

Work with School Principals and Senior Managers

In 2015 Karen wrote a program about implementing an RTI framework to intervene effectively to solve small issues before they become big problems and to allow all students to achieve. She was invited to present this on behalf of Speld Vic and DET to between 250 and 300 School Principals and senior managers throughout Victoria during 2015 and 2016.

Workshop titles include:

- Meeting the Needs of Students with Dyslexia and other LDs - Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment
- Implementing an RTI framework to allow all students to achieve
- Screening and Assessment for Early Intervention in School
- Using Games to Develop Language and Vocabulary in the Classroom
- Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities in your Class- for TAFES and other organisations.
- Success Stories for Social Situations for Children with Autism
- Teaching Reading to Struggling Upper Primary and Secondary School Students
- 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