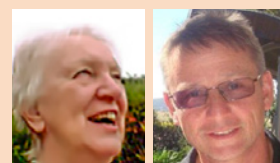




# Dyscalculia and Low Numeracy: Diagnosis and Intervention

**An inspiring and practical workshop!**



**Presenters: Ann Williams and Andrew Bridge**

Dyscalculia isn't as widely discussed as dyslexia, and it's not as well understood, however researchers are beginning to question whether it may be as common. A number of students suffer from Mathematical Learning Difficulties; about 5–7% have dyscalculia.

“Dyscalculia is a condition that affects the ability to acquire math skills. Dyscalculic learners may have difficulty understanding simple number concepts, lack an intuitive grasp of numbers, and have problems learning number facts and procedures. Even if they produce a correct answer or use a correct method, they may do so mechanically or without confidence.”<sup>1</sup>

## **This is an interactive workshop, which will:**

- Examine the differences between dyscalculia and low numeracy
- Define dyscalculia: signs and symptoms
- Explain the neuroscience underpinning dyscalculia
- Suggest support in class: Lesson planning, personal and classroom organisation, grouping, resources, accommodations etc.
- Demonstrate how to use class displays effectively
- Help teachers to meet the needs of individual learners and monitor progress including how to write an Individual Learning Plan for a student with dyscalculia or low number ability.
- Provide guidance for teaching a mixed ability class: understanding the approaches to differentiating lessons in terms of questioning and activities.
- Explore effective ways to improve partnerships with parents and provide activities to use at home to reinforce learning

Ann Williams will talk about how to recognise dyscalculia and explain the neuroscience underpinning dyscalculia.

Andrew Bridge will talk about his work as numeracy coach; how that looked in Wedge Park and how he made an impact on classes and/or additional support within the school.

There will be an interactive session where teachers will investigate strategies that will help children with dyscalculia or low numeracy.

Presented by SPELD Victoria in collaboration with Ann Williams and Andrew Bridge

**Date:** Thursday 4th June

**Duration:** 9 am registration. Course runs from 9.30 am–3.30 pm

**Location:** Mordialloc Sporting Club – 528 Main St, Mordialloc VIC 3195 (free parking at the club plus side street parking)

**Cost:** \$160 Price Includes: Presentation, hand-outs, numerous helpful websites, and lots of information about resources, tea/coffee on arrival, morning tea and lunch overlooking the sea. Disabled access.

## **Registration:**

<http://dyscalculia-low-numeracy-fullday.eventbrite.com.au>



**SPELD Victoria Inc.**

Dyslexia and other Learning Disabilities Support

---

## About the Presenters

### Ann Williams

Ann has taught Maths over a period of about 30 years. She has taught in 3 different countries, the U.K., Australia and Samoa, in a variety of schools both private and State schools. Whilst teaching she held a number of positions of responsibility including Head of Maths, Faculty Head, Year level Co-ordinator and Co-ordinator of Life Skills

Since retiring from full time teaching, Ann has tutored a number of children, some of whom have dyscalculia, and is now studying for a Masters in Education her area of interest being dyscalculia. She was recently invited to join the 'Golden key international honour society,' which is based solely on academic achievement as verified by the university and is only available to the top 15% of students.

Ann has recently had an article entitled "Dyscalculia from a Teacher's Perspective" published in the Australian Journal of Learning Difficulties and has given a number of

presentations in both Victoria and New South Wales for different groups, with most positive feedback.

#### Presentations include:

NDCO LD conference in the Hunter Valley,  
Dyslexia support group west (Footscray)  
The BIG GIG LD conference  
DyslexiClever support group (Woodend)  
Re-thinking Dyslexia Conference  
SOLD support group (Sunbury)  
International Research Symposium (Deakin Uni)  
BOLD support group (Bendigo)  
NDCO Inclusive Learning conference (Monash Uni)  
Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA 37)  
Mathematical Association of Victoria conference (MAV) (Dec 2014)

---

### Andrew Bridge

Andrew has over 35 years teaching experience. Amongst his management roles he was appointed as a Numeracy Coach who had/has a passion for helping struggling achievers with self-esteem and /or discipline difficulties. Andrew also worked closely with Dr. Nola Firth in a 3 year dyslexia research project and Andrew implemented Dr Firth's 'Success and Dyslexia' program at Wedge Park, where he is a teacher. This work was featured in the Age Newspaper; "When Learning's a disability" Elizabeth Tarica [www.theage.com.au/national/education/when-learnings-a-disability-20090809-ee6f.html](http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/when-learnings-a-disability-20090809-ee6f.html)

Andrew is the only Dyslexia Program Coordinator in Victoria and from 2009 onwards he has been teaching students with dyslexia for both coping skills/resilience and academic development using a Multisensory Structured Language approach.

Andrew has recently retired from full-time teaching but remains at Wedge Park Primary School, on a part-time basis, specifically to raise dyslexia awareness.

#### Presentations and PD Sessions include:

1 hour presentation to the "Melton Network Numeracy Coaches" Vic Uni – Melton Campus. Title: Dyslexia, a brief synopsis in three parts.

1.5 hour presentation to "Sunshine Network, Emerging Leaders" Title: Dyslexia, a brief synopsis in three parts/ exerting influence

2 hour presentation to Bayside Learning Difficulties Support Group Title: Teaching Resilience through Academia and "Success & Dyslexia" to the Dyslexic child.

Keynote Speaker at ACT "Learning Difficulties Conference" Canberra Title: Empowering Students with Learning Disabilities.

30 minute presentation Box Hill Town Hall for Dyslexia Awareness Week. (Becoming a dyslexia friendly school)

1 hour presentation Royal Melbourne Hospital Audience – Educational Psychologists Annual Conference. Title "Moving Further Towards a Dyslexic Friendly School"

1 hour presentation SPELD VIC Audience – Teachers/ Aides/Psychologists & Parents. Title "Moving Towards a Dyslexic Friendly School"

2 hour presentation partnering Dr. Nola Firth Venue – Australian Association Research Education/ Research and Practitioners Conference / Hobart. Audience – Researchers and Practitioners of AARE Title – "Success and Dyslexia" (ACER) Program – research development and implementation