

# A Comprehensive two day workshop For Education Support Staff & Integration Aides

Supporting the needs of students with Dyslexia & other learning difficulties in class, in small groups and also individually



## From The Government Response to the PSD Report:

Education Support staff play a vital support role for schools and teachers, as well as being a valuable workforce for many students with learning disabilities. Used effectively, they can help students to learn and thrive. However, principals and teachers are often unaware of how and when to most effectively use Education Support staff.

## Workshop Content:

- Learn why some children learn differently
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of specific learning difficulties in individuals
- Understanding the main weaknesses they share
- Develop a range of strategies to support students with specific learning difficulties in class in terms of:
  - Organisation, reading, writing and spelling
  - Know the basic skills required for reading and how a child learns to read
  - Learn how to introduce and reinforce Phonemes, Phonics and High frequency Words
- Be informed about technologies to support students
- Be provided with free resources to download and games and activities to play
- Cognitive weaknesses - what these are, how to identify them and games and activities to help students learn strategies to overcome them
- Feel more confident about working with small group and individual students in terms of teaching reading and spelling
- Leave the workshop with increased confidence as well as tools that you can implement immediately

## Testimony

“ Brilliant course: I came away feeling much more capable of helping kids who are struggling and identifying what they need help with.”

*K.M. - Southern region*

“Interesting, eye opening, informative and very practical; we can really put into practice what we have learned.”

*S.O. - Southern Region*

## Course Details:

**Dates:** Friday July 15 and Friday July 22

**Times:** 9.30am-3.30pm each day

**Location:** SPELD Vic: 60 High St. Preston 3072

**Cost:** \$370.00 FOR TWO DAYS

Morning tea, lunch and comprehensive handouts included.

**Registration Closes:** Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>

**Payment is required 1 week prior to the scheduled starting date. Refunds will not be given less than 7 days from the course date.**



**SPELD Victoria Inc.**  
Dyslexia and other Learning Disabilities Support

To book: please visit [www.speldvic.org.au/events-and-courses/list-all-events](http://www.speldvic.org.au/events-and-courses/list-all-events)

# 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 allow all learners to achieve, 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.