Dyslexia Assessment for Adults

Dyslexia Assessment and Support Services
Consultant: Karen Starkiss – RSA Dip SpLD

Understanding Dyslexia

Dyslexia affects an estimated **5–10% of the population**. Like Autism Spectrum Disorder, dyslexia exists on a **spectrum from mild to profound**, and no two individuals present in exactly the same way. It is a **lifelong condition**, cannot be cured, and **is not related to intelligence**. Dyslexia occurs across all levels of ability, socio-economic backgrounds, and cultures, with many individuals of average or above-average intelligence.

Dyslexia is a **specific learning disorder** that primarily affects the processing of written language and, for some individuals, aspects of numeracy. It is recognised under the **Australian Disability Discrimination Act (1992)** and by the **Australian Human Rights Commission**.

Because dyslexia is not visible, it often goes unrecognised. Adults may be labelled as careless, slow, disorganised, or lacking attention when, in reality, they are compensating for difficulties with reading accuracy, written expression, working memory, processing speed, or auditory information.

This lack of recognition frequently leads to:

- Stress and anxiety.
- Reduced confidence and self-esteem
- Ongoing difficulties in study or employment

An appropriate diagnostic assessment often brings **significant changes in understanding and support** from employers, universities, and training organisations.

"For exams I had extended time and could use Read&Write to read questions aloud. I had access to a note-taker for lectures. It honestly changed my life and how I studied." – MM

Many organisations are now actively working towards becoming **Dyslexia-Friendly Workplaces** to improve staff wellbeing, retention, and productivity.

The Assessment

I provide diagnostic assessments for **adults and children**, including individuals who suspect dyslexia or who experience more general learning difficulties.

The process includes:

- **Pre-assessment questionnaire**
  (Family history, education, vision/hearing, coordination, strengths, challenges)
- **Initial consultation**
  Discussion of background information and current concerns
- **Comprehensive assessment**
  A range of structured and open-ended tasks (this is *not* an exam)
- **In-depth analysis and written report**
- **Verbal feedback session**
  Detailed explanation of results, implications, and recommendations

Areas assessed:

- Cognitive skills (including working memory, processing speed, sequencing)
- Phonological processing and rapid automatic naming
- Reading, spelling, and written expression

I take a **whole-person approach**, building a detailed profile of how you process information and identifying the underlying causes of difficulty — not just surface symptoms.

Your Report

Your report will include:

- Results and explanations of all assessment tasks
- Clear conclusions
- Practical, tailored recommendations for:
    - Study or training.
    - Workplace adjustments
    - Home strategies

Where requested, I can also provide **written recommendations for employers, universities, colleges, or training providers** at no additional cost. A follow-up phone consultation is included to ensure you fully understand the findings and can ask questions — a service rarely offered elsewhere.

Fees

Total fee: $850

This includes:

- Screening questionnaire
- Review and discussion of background information
- Approximately 4 hours of assessment
- 1–2 hours of analysis
- 3–4 hours of detailed report writing
- Verbal feedback session
- Optional written recommendations for employers or education providers

These fees are **highly competitive** for the depth and level of service provided.

Payment

Payment may be made via **cash or bank deposit**.
Reports are finalised once payment has been received.

Funding and Tax Information

- Assessments are **not covered by private health funds.** If your employer requests the assessment as part of professional development, the cost **may be tax deductible** (please confirm with your accountant)

Confidentiality

All information provided — written, verbal, or assessed — is **strictly confidential** and will not be shared with any third party without your written consent.

Contact

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