

# Creating an Inclusive & Diverse Learning Environment for Students with learning Difficulties including Dyslexia and other SpLDs



## Testimony

“Karen is a wonderful presenter and facilitator and came to the session with a wealth of knowledge about how to support students with disability and specifically, dyslexia. Karen didn’t just present the theory, but also explained practical measures for supporting students with disability and dyslexia in the classroom. We wanted to raise awareness, we got that, and so much more with Karen. Our Teachers, Trainers and Assessors and support staff walked away with additional tools to support students with disability and dyslexia. Thank you, Karen, looking forward to having you back.” **Daniel Gardner (He/Him/His) Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Governance**

There is “clear and consistent evidence that inclusive educational settings can confer substantial short and long-term benefits for students with and without disabilities”. *A summary of the evidence on inclusive education 2017*

## Workshop outline:

To inform participants about current best practice for teaching students with dyslexia and other SpLDs. It will be practical; providing ideas, activities and resources that you can use immediately in class. If implemented consistently teachers will raise the potential of all students.

## Workshop content includes:

- Why some students learn differently- the difference between learning difficulties & disorders.
- Key characteristics of dyslexia and other Specific Learning Disorders; identifying students in your classes.
- Screening and assessment tools to highlight class needs, for targeted intervention & to track students.
- Formal and informal assessment- focus on effective accommodations.
- Explicit, direct, systematic teaching- how to structure a lesson to support students with LD and raise standards for all. What are the gains, what does research say?
- Removing ‘Barriers to Learning;’ teaching methods, accommodations, and resources to implement to create an inclusive classroom environment.
- The simple view of reading model and how to apply this to students with reading challenges.
- The importance of background knowledge and vocabulary and how to include improve these no matter what subject you teach.
- Strategies, approaches, and resources that can be implemented immediately.
- Using IT to support students and ideas for classwork.
- Useful websites with free resources to support the teacher and the students.

**KAREN STARKISS** is an ex-school principal with extensive experience of assisting schools to become inclusive. She has over 30 years of experience as a teacher, and an assessor of dyslexia. Karen has been contracted to train school principals, managers, teachers, psychologists and health therapists for the Education Departments in the ACT, Northern Territory and Victoria in areas of RTI, Inclusion, Diversity and Raising Standards in Literacy. Karen has been interviewed by the Age & on ABC radio about her expertise in dyslexia & has advised a Government Task Force in Canberra about students with LD.

Karen provides training to schools, TAFEs & employers throughout Victoria & Interstate about creating Inclusive Learning Environments as well as working as a consultant to many schools to help them raise standards by improving literacy provision.



**Workshop offered for individual schools or Networks throughout Australia face to face or via webinar. Bookings/ price details : [Karen@dyslexiasupportservices.com.au](mailto:Karen@dyslexiasupportservices.com.au) / 0402 225 051**