

Our Vision is for all people with dyslexia to be understood, acknowledged, empowered and to have equal access to opportunity.

Our Mission

- We will raise awareness about dyslexia.
- We will support and empower those with dyslexia and their families.
- We will work with government and other decision makers to improve the education system and workplaces for those with dyslexia.
- We will work to enhance the everyday experience of people with dyslexia.

What we want

1. Early screening and identification of literacy difficulties.
 2. Educators that are knowledgeable about dyslexia and how to identify it.
 3. Effective evidence based literacy instruction in schools.
 4. Schools and teachers to be dyslexia aware and give all students equitable access to the curriculum.
 5. Dyslexia to be destigmatised in the community.
 6. Action to alleviate the potentially devastating outcome of undiagnosed.
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What is Dyslexia?

The International Dyslexia Association defines dyslexia as "A specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterised by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge." (International Dyslexia Association 2002)

Busting the Myths

- ✗ Coloured lenses or eye exercises will not help Dyslexia as it is **not** related to vision. Dyslexia is neurological.
- ✗ Dyslexia is **not** related to IQ and in fact people with dyslexia often have normal to high IQ's.

The Facts

- 👍 Dyslexia is genetic and the severity can range from mild to severe.
- 👍 There is no greater prevalence of dyslexia in boys than girls.
- 👍 In Australia "Dyslexia is estimated to affect some 10% of the population" (*Australian Dyslexia Association 2018*).

- 👎 20% of children in Australia are at risk of reading failure (*PIRLS 2016*).
- 👎 39% of 15 year olds do not meet the 'National Proficient Standard' in reading literacy (*PISA 2015*).
- 👎 44% of adults lack the basic literacy skills needed for life (*ABS 2013 based on OECD PIAAC data*).
- 👎 48.7% of young people in custody scored 'very low' on the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals Core Language Score (*2015 Young People in Custody Health Survey*).
- 👎 94% of young people in custody scored below average on reading comprehension on the York Reading Assessment of Reading Comprehension (*2015 Young People in Custody Health Survey*).
- 👎 20% of children with dyslexia suffer from depression & another 20% suffer from an anxiety disorder (*Willcutt, and Gaffney-Brown 2004*).

The effects of unrecognised and unremediated dyslexia are far reaching and lifelong.

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