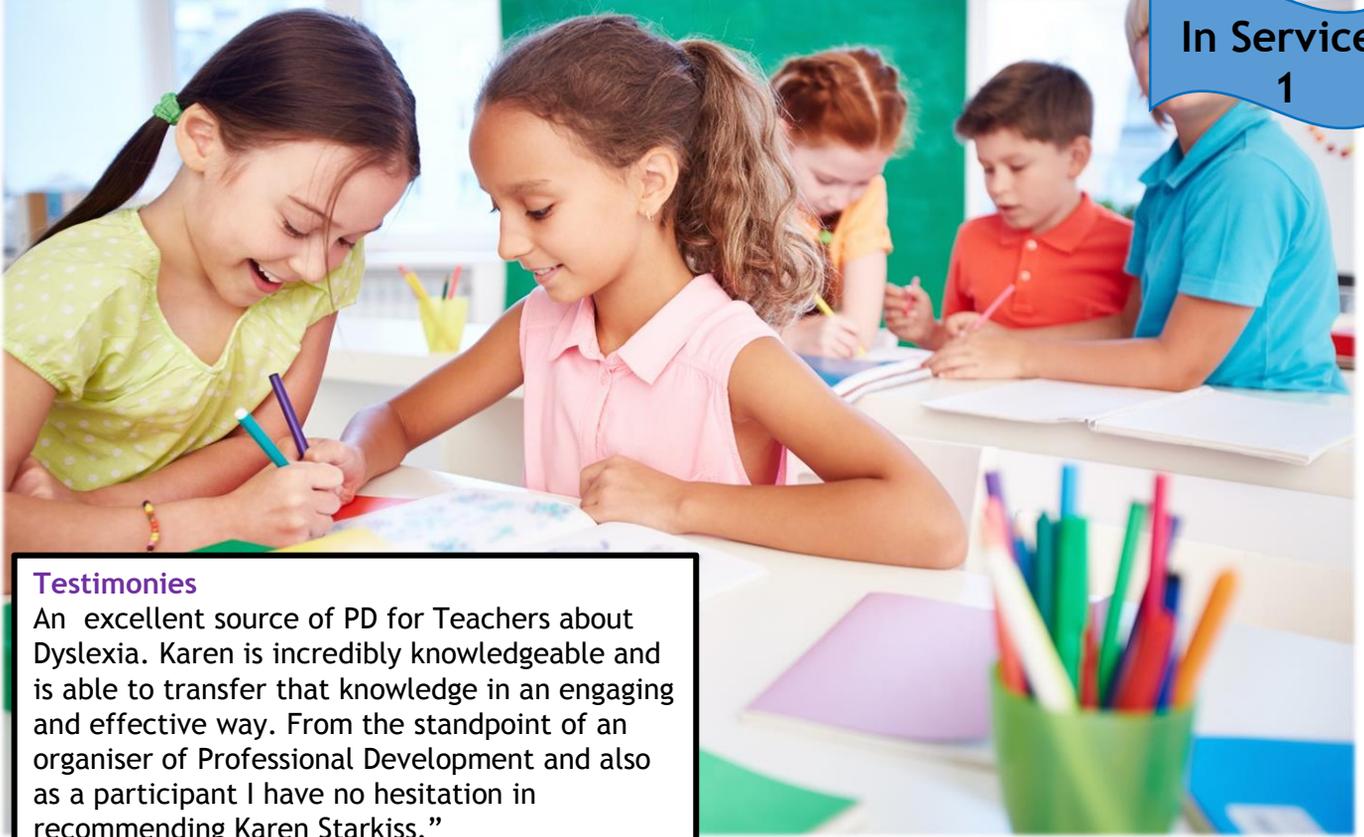


# Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment:

For students with Dyslexia and other Learning Difficulties

In Service  
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## Testimonies

An excellent source of PD for Teachers about Dyslexia. Karen is incredibly knowledgeable and is able to transfer that knowledge in an engaging and effective way. From the standpoint of an organiser of Professional Development and also as a participant I have no hesitation in recommending Karen Starkiss.”

*Melinda Lichnovsky-Klock CRT coordinator*

Many students have a mild level of difficulty and, with simple changes, they can be managed in the mainstream classroom. For those that experience problems at a more severe level, it is critical that the classroom and methodologies are designed to meet their needs.

Workshop outline: This course will be extremely practical and will provide ideas, activities and resources that you can use immediately in class.

### Workshop content includes:

- How to recognise that a student is dyslexic
- How to gather evidence and informally assess individual students in the classroom
- Identifying individual learning styles and creating a multi-sensory environment
- How to develop a range of strategies to support students in class and individually
- Specific support for reading, writing and spelling
- Using ICT to support students and ideas for class work
- Useful websites with free resources to support the teacher and the students

## Parent Information Session

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>  
November 2015  
**Time:** 6pm - 8pm  
**Venue:** Surf Coast Secondary  
College  
(75 White St Torquay)

**RSVP:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
Surf Coast Secondary  
College  
5261 6633 or

[surf.coast.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:surf.coast.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au)

# 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.

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.

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.

Karen has been interviewed by the Age and ABC radio about her expertise in dyslexia and has advised a government task force in Canberra about supporting children with learning difficulties.

Since 2014 she spent some time working with the education departments in the ACT and the Northern Territory to put together a program to make all schools inclusive and accessible to all students; provided training for Expert and Lead teachers and professionals in the ACT to enable them to implement the program in individual schools

### Professional memberships and focus groups:

- Victorian Institute of Teachers
- British Dyslexia Association
- Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia Stakeholder
- Reference Group DEECD Vic
- VCAA Special Provision Focus Group

### Recent Conference presentations:

- The BIG GIG Learning Difficulties conference Victoria
- NDCO Inclusive Learning conference (Monash Uni)
- Re-thinking Dyslexia Conference Melbourne
- Taskforce on Students with Learning Difficulties ACT
- Learning Difficulties Conference Canberra

### Professional development presentations 2014:

SCHOOLS IN-SERVICE includes: The Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Fleetwood Primary, Ballam Park Primary, Taylor’s Lakes School, St Joseph’s school Cobram, Lakeside Lutheran P-12, Solway Primary School, Doncaster Primary School, Montmorency Secondary College, Mount Eliza Primary School, Shepparton ACE College, Catholic College Wodonga, Rangebank Primary, St Bernard’s School Wangaratta, Berwick Primary school

ACT Department of Education: Taskforce on Students with Learning Difficulties seven days: Train the Trainer Program - training school Principals, psychologists, advisors, teachers, support assistants and parents: Intervention Strategies to support students with learning difficulties

Dyslexiclever Parents’ and Teachers’ workshop Macedon Ranges

Woodend regional workshop Vic

Ballarat Teachers and Support Assistant Workshop Vic Shepparton Teachers and Support Assistant Workshop Vic

ACT - Presentation to School Principals and advising/ planning methods to ensure training is embedded Parents’ workshop Canberra How to Support your child with learning difficulties at home and school NDCO Teachers and tutors of students 14 years+ in the following areas: Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Dandenong and Peninsula - Creating a Dyslexia-Friendly Learning Environment.

Casual Relief Teachers Workshop Ballarat

South West Parent Support Group: for parents and teachers of upper primary and secondary children Mount Eliza Primary presentation to parents Screening and Assessment for early Intervention - Kerrimuir Primary

Weetangara Primary Teachers and parents - Canberra

Northern Territories Department of Education Alice Springs and Darwin: seven days: workshops for Principals, psychologists, advisors, teachers, support assistants, Special Needs Association and parents: Intervention Strategies to support students with learning difficulties

Ronald McDonald House Teachers and Tutors

### Lecturer/presenter for:

Meeting the Needs of Students with Dyslexia and other LDs

- Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment Screening and Assessment for Early Intervention in School

Using Games to Develop Language and Vocabulary in the Classroom

Creating a Dyslexia friendly and inclusive classroom on a budget

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.