

The Reading and Writing Centre

your centre for expert advice and professional learning
in child and adolescent reading and writing disorders

Dyslexia

a language based reading disorder

What is
dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a word-level reading disability stemming from an impairment in the phonological component of language. It is characterised by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition, decoding and by poor spelling.

Dyslexia is a spectrum disorder ranging from mild through to significant learning and functional impact.

How is
dyslexia
diagnosed?

The department recognises dyslexia as a disability and makes adjustments to enable students with dyslexia to access and participate in education.

A diagnosis of Specific Learning Disorder – impairment in reading (dyslexia) may be applied by an educational psychologist or speech pathologist external to the department. Parents can choose to have their child assessed for the purpose of formal diagnosis.

Is a
diagnosis
required?

State schools are allocated resources to support all students with disability whether they have a diagnosis or not. Schools can access the expertise of speech language pathologists, support teachers (literacy and numeracy) and guidance officers to develop a profile of strengths and challenges in reading. This profile informs differentiated teaching and targeted intervention strategies.

What
resources
are available
to schools?

In addition to the expertise of teachers, school-based specialist staff and teacher aides, schools can access a range of adjustments to teaching and learning such as assistive technologies and considerations for diagnostic assessments to support students in their reading development and participation in year level curriculum.

The Reading
and Writing
Centre

The Reading and Writing Centre draws on contemporary research and methodologies to provide specialist advice to parents and educators on the prevention, identification and intervention of reading disorders, with a specific focus on dyslexia.

The Reading and Writing Centre partners with key organisations and advocacy groups to share knowledge and raise awareness of dyslexia and its impact on learning and life outcomes for young people.

