Implementing a whole school approach to meeting students' varying needs.

Increase your confidence in identifying students at risk, targeting support and intervening effectively to allow all learners to achieve

In Service 2

Response to Intervention is designed to improve student learning by providing high-quality instruction, intervening early with students at risk for academic difficulty.

A central component of all RTI models is early screening of all students to identify those at risk for academic difficulties.

Screening students to identify those who, despite a strong general education program are likely to fail, will ensure that they receive targeted evidence-based interventions. For some students more intensive informal assessments will highlight specific weaknesses that require specific support in class and in terms of an individual program.

Workshop content:

This will be determined by discussions with individual schools and their specific requirements. It could include:

- Review of current school procedures
- A means to audit school strengths and Areas to develop in terms of RTI
- Definition of the most common Learning Difficulties/Disabilities
- Demonstrate how early Identification of the risk of reading difficulties is possible

Comments about the workshops
- You helped our staff establish what we do well, where the school is at and what we need to do next
- This workshop has highlighted a vast range of assessments and interventions available
- Outstanding; fast paced, straight to the point and practical
- Feeling Inspired and wanting to go back and put these ideas into practice

- Support and advice for structuring screening and assessment throughout the school
- Intervention ideas for groups and Individuals
- Tests for more intensive assessment of individual needs including reading, spelling, language, phonological and cognitive skills
- A method for highlighting support at each tier of need, which can be easily communicated to school staff and parents
- Example Policy and Guidelines to support new staff
- Links to helpful, RTI screening and assessment resources

This PD can be delivered as a full day or condensed to a half day.

Workshops can be tailored to individual school needs and can be offered all over Victoria

Dyslexia Support Services and Educational Resources

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 for teachers.

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 and helped many schools audit their provision and become inclusive for students with LD.

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 as well as being part of a number of focus groups contributing ideas and suggestions to improve provision for children and adults with dyslexia and other LDs.

Karen has been interviewed by the Age and ABC radio about her expertise in dyslexia, has advised a government task force in Canberra about supporting children with learning difficulties and run training for school principals, teachers and classroom aides.

During 2013 & 2014 she worked with the education departments in the ACT and the Northern Territory to present a program to help schools become inclusive and accessible to all students; provided training for, School Principals, Expert and Lead teachers and professionals to enable them to implement the program in individual schools

In 2015 Karen was invited by the Wellbeing team at Department of Education and Training Vic to join the Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia Stakeholder Reference Group who advise about supporting schools to become diverse and inclusive for students with Learning Difficulties/Disabilities.

Professional Memberships and Focus Groups:
• 1 of 5 Speld members presenting to the PSD Review Advisory Panel
• Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia Stakeholder Reference Group DET Vic
• VIT Special Needs Stakeholder Reference Group
• Victorian Institute of Teachers
• British Dyslexia Association
• VCAA Special Provision Focus Group

Professional Development Presentations 2015:
SCHOOLS IN-SERVICE for a number of primary and secondary schools throughout Victoria including Government, Catholic and Independent schools. WORKSHOPS for TAFE and other Organisations for teachers and tutors training teenagers and adults WORKPLACE TRAINING for employers including Defence Force psychologists and other staff about making the workplace inclusive for adults with dyslexia.

Recent Conference Presentations:
• Keynote Speaker and workshop presenter for Mallee Cluster of Schools
• Presenter for Creating Contemporary Learning Conference for Catholic Schools and colleges in the Wodonga Network
• Presenter for Making Connections Raising the Achievement of Vulnerable Students Conference Tasmania
• Presenter VCAL Showcase on behalf of VCAA

Work with School Principals and Senior Managers
In 2015 Karen wrote a program about implementing an RTI framework to intervene effectively to solve small issues before they become big problems and to allow all students to achieve. She was invited to present this on behalf of Speld Vic and DET to between 250 and 300 School Principals and senior managers throughout Victoria during 2015 and 2016.

Workshop titles include:
• Meeting the Needs of Students with Dyslexia and other LDs – Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment
• Implementing an RTI framework to allow all students to achieve
• Screening and Assessment for Early Intervention in School
• Using Games to Develop Language and Vocabulary in the Classroom
• Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities in your Class- for TAFES and other organisations.
• 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.
Workshops are flexible and can be written to suit the needs of individual schools