

Dyslexia Assessment and Support Services

Consultant: Karen Starkiss

It is estimated that Dyslexia affects between 5 and 10% of the population. It is a condition that cannot be cured, and it has nothing to do with IQ. Dyslexia can occur in people of all abilities, and people who have dyslexia are frequently of average or above average ability. It is found in all socio-economic groups and in every country in the world.

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty affecting a person's ability to deal with text, and often numbers as well. It is a permanent disability which often goes unnoticed until a child starts school. Then a child (and later an adult) knows something is wrong but cannot understand why they find it so hard to cope with the work that others find so easy. This often results in stress, lack of confidence and self-esteem.

A dyslexic person's difficulty is not visible compared to a person in a wheelchair, for example, and therefore it often goes unrecognised by teachers, lecturers, and employers. The result can often be that the person is labelled "lazy" or "slow," "a daydreamer." Employers may consider that their employee is careless, for example, when drafting reports, inputting data, or making calculations involving money. They may also feel that the employee is taking more time than necessary to complete work assignments. They do not understand that the dyslexic employee needs to read everything more than once to check for errors and take time to process verbal information.

My experience is that an assessment will often make a significant difference to the attitude of the college, university or employer and frequently results in extra consideration and support for that person.

In fact, many companies are seeking to make the workplace "Dyslexia Friendly" to improve staff retention and productivity. IBM in the United States is an excellent example of this.

There is so much that can be done to help adults cope with and overcome problems associated with dyslexia, both at work and home. This "hidden disorder" can affect someone's whole life unless it is recognised and managed, and the first step is a diagnostic assessment conducted by a specialist.

The Assessment

The service I provide is **for people of all ages; children, and adults**. Although it is aimed at people who think that they may be dyslexic the assessment will also help people who have general learning difficulties.

The whole assessment process involves;

- A pre-assessment questionnaire for you to provide some background about family history, hearing, vision and co-ordination, and any other developmental issues, weaknesses and strengths and specific difficulties.
- Initial meeting to discuss the questionnaire in more detail.
- Comprehensive assessment.

The assessments will include a variety of tasks. It is not like an exam and there are no right or wrong answers. I will be building up a picture of how you think and process information, to look at the whole person and examine the root cause of any learning difficulties. The final part involves building up a profile, testing a range of factors including:

- Cognitive (thinking) skills, short term and working memory, sequencing, information processing, rapid automatic naming, phonological processing and visual perception.
- Literacy skills in reading, spelling and writing.
- Comprehensive report with recommendations

It is not enough to have a report with conclusions (which is all that many assessment agencies provide). Your report will give results of all the tasks and tests taken, what that means and the implications. It will also provide conclusions and a comprehensive list of recommendations for work and home, in further study or at work. More importantly you may also require recommendations for your college or employer.

I can also provide recommendations for your university/college or trainer, if you wish, at no extra cost.

- Verbal consultation to discuss the report and recommendations in detail and time for you to ask any questions. This part of my service is rarely provided by others

Charges

All fees cover the following:

Questionnaire to complete for screening

Evaluation of pre-questionnaire

Discussions with client

1–2-hour analysis of data

3-4 hours report writing

Feedback to client

Additional recommendations for individual tuition, for further education or to be sent to your employer (optional)

Total fees

\$800

You will find that these rates and services are extremely competitive

I accept cash, personal cheque, or bank deposit. I will write your report once your payment has been received

If you would like to proceed with the assessment, please ring me on 0402225051 or email karen@dyslexiasupportservices.com.au

The assessment is not covered by private medical funds. If your employer writes a letter asking you to seek an assessment of your learning needs as part of your ongoing professional development; I have been informed by my accountant that you can claim the cost as a tax deduction.

Any information that you supply will be used by me as part of the assessment process. Any information supplied verbally or in writing and any test results will not be shared with anyone else apart from the client who has provided the information and paid for the assessment unless I am instructed to by the client.

If you would like me to write recommendations for your employer, I will share those recommendations with you in the first instance and would only send them to your employer with your approval.

Karen Starkiss- RSA Dip SpLD,

© Dyslexia Assessment and Support Services