

Letter from DDOLL to State Ministers of Education, 4 December 2017

Attachment 2. List of Organisations Supporting the DDOLL Letter

The following organisations have indicated their support for the DDOLL letter supporting the introduction of the proposed Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, which is due to be considered at the upcoming Education Council Meeting on Friday 8 December. All of the organisations listed are directly concerned with either the support of children with reading difficulties or the dissemination of information relating to the scientific evidence of how children learn to read and the most effective approaches to the teaching of reading. A brief description of each of the organisations listed is provided at the end of the listing. This listing has been compiled by Dr Molly de Lemos, member of the DDOLL network, email contact delemos@pacific.net.au.

Australian National Organisations:

Learning Difficulties Australia (LDA)

President: Anne Castles, Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University,
and Deputy Director, ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders (CCD)
Website: <https://www.ldaustralia.org/>
Email: anne.castles@mq.edu.au

AUSPELD – Australian Federation of SPELD Associations

Patron: Dr Norman Swan

President: Mandy Nayton, Executive Officer, Dyslexia SPELD Foundation WA

Website: <http://auspeld.org.au>

Email: support@dsf.net.au

Speech Pathology Australia (SPA)

President: Gaenor Dixon

Website: <https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/>

Email: president@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

International Organisations:

The International Foundation for Effective Reading Instruction (IFERI)

Website: <https://www.iferi.org/>

Contact person: Debbie Hepplewhite, MBE FRSA, at debbie@iferi.org

The National Right to Read Foundation (United States)

Website: <http://www.nrrf.org>

President: Dr. Robert W. Sweet, Jr., Nrrfone@gmail.com

Educators International (UK)

Website: <http://www.educatorsinternational.org.uk/>

Chief Officer and Trustee: Michael Stark, michael@educatorsinternational.org.uk

Australian State SPELD Organisations

SPELD QLD

CEO: Marion McMahon, Website: www.speld.org.au, Email: speld@speld.org.au

SPELD NSW

CEO: Georgina Perry, Website: www.speldnsw.org.au, Email: enquiries@speldnsw.org.au

SPELD SA

CEO: Sandy Russo, Website: www.speld-sa.org.au, Email: info@speld-sa.org.au

SPELD VIC

CEO: Claire Stonier-Kipen, Website: www.speldvic.org.au, Email: admin@speldvic.org.au

DYSLEXIA-SPELD FOUNDATION WA INC

CEO: Mandy Nayton OAM, Website: www.dsf.net.au, Email: support@dsf.net.au

Other Australian Organisations:

Teaching, Technology and Resources for Learning (TTR4L)

Website: <http://www.dyslexiattr4l.com/>

Contact person: Yvonne Lynch, ylynch@hotmail.net.au

Dyslexia Support Groups

Albury Wodonga Dyslexia Support Group

Contact: Sarah Allen, sarahallen0@icloud.com

Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and LD Parent Support Group

Contact: Ann Williams, awillia732@gmail.com

Dyslexia Info Canberra

Contact: Jen Cross, dyslexiacanberra@gmail.com

Dyslexia NSW Clarence and Northern Rivers

Contact: Julie Hermansen, dyslexiac Clarence@gmail.com

Dyslexia NSW Support Group

Contact: Victoria Leslie, vleslie.literacy@gmail.com

Dyslexia Queensland Support Group

Contact: Tanya Forbes, gcdyslexia@gmail.com

Dyslexia South Australia

Contact: Janice McPhail, JMcPhail@adelaidephn.com.au

Dyslexia Support Australia (DSA)

Contact: Belinda Dekker, bindybee@yahoo.com

Dyslexia Support NSW Mid North Coast

Contact: Kelly King, dyslexiamnc@gmail.com

Dyslexia Victoria Support Group

Contact Heidi Gregory, 2behold@gmail.com

Tasmania Dyslexia Support Group (Square Pegs)

Contact Amelia Jones, squarepegstas@gmail.com

Victoria Bayside Dyslexia Support Group

Contact: Isabelle Duquennois, Isabelle.duquennois@gmail.com

Victoria Far North Melbourne Dyslexia Support Group

Contact: Melanie Wells, DVSGfnm@gmail.com

Victoria Inner North East Dyslexia Support Group

Contact: Bec Cambrell, rcambrell@gmail.com

Victoria Inner North West Dyslexia Support Group

Contact: Kate Bertoncello, k.bertoncello@yahoo.com.au

Victoria Outer East Dyslexia Support Group

Contact: Roberta Styles-Wood, roberta@loremakers.com.au

Victoria South Gippsland Learning Differences Support Group

Contact: Kerry Harvey, sglearningdiff@hotmail.com

Western Australia (WA) Support Group

Contact Vikki Hipkin, wadyslexia@gmail.com

Addendum

Brief description of Organisations Supporting the DDOLL Letter

Learning Difficulties Australia (LDA)

LDA is an association of teachers and other professionals dedicated to assisting students with learning difficulties through effective teaching practices based on scientific research.

Speech Pathology Australia (SPA)

Speech Pathology Australia is the national peak body for the speech pathology profession in Australia. Speech pathologists are university trained allied health professionals with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of communication disorders, including difficulties with speaking, listening, understanding language, and reading and writing.

The International Foundation for Effective Reading Instruction (IFERI)

IFERI is a not-for-profit organisation, whose aim is to contribute to raising standards of literacy in the English language based on robust research and high-quality instruction in the teaching of reading, spelling and writing. It includes researchers, educators and parents from around the world.

The National Right to Read Foundation (United States)

The mission of the National Right to Read Foundation is to educate, advocate and encourage the application of the definitive findings of experimental, empirical research in reading instruction.

Educators International

Educators International is a UK charity that works in developing countries to introduce educational reform at all levels of education. This organisation has recently been developing a program for training teachers in Ghana to teach reading via the Phonics By Phone teacher training course. This audio course draws on best pedagogical expertise and was piloted in Ghana in 2015 with over 5,000 teachers from remote and deprived districts.

Teaching, Technology and Resources for Learning (TTR4L)

TTR4L is a group of professional and specialist educators providing information and support in the areas of Dyslexia, Language, Psychological Assessment, Dyscalculia and other Learning Difficulties.

AUSPELD and SPELD Organisations

The SPELD organisations in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia have provided vital support and advocacy services for children and adults with learning difficulties for almost fifty years. They work with families and schools in every state and territory including those based in regional and remote areas. Their focus is on improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for all children and strongly endorse an evidence-based approach in the classroom. Each state organisation provides information, training, intervention and support to parents, educators and students, and helps to inform the general public on the current research underpinning best-practice instruction and intervention. AUSPELD is made up of representatives from each of the state organisations, and provides a role in supporting the state groups.

Dyslexia Support Groups

The various Dyslexia Support Groups listed comprise parents and professionals whose aim is to support parents, teachers and students on issues relating to dyslexia through raising awareness of dyslexia and providing information on evidence-based practices to support students with reading difficulties. Many of these groups use Facebook and Twitter to communicate with parents and to exchange information relating to personal experiences involving students who have difficulties with learning to read.

Other organisations supporting the Phonics Check.

Note that the Australian Association of Special Education (AASE) has also issued a statement supporting the Phonics Check, and has called on states and territories and other professional teaching associations to ensure that this opportunity is provided for all Year 1 students across Australia to give them the best start to their formal learning of basic reading skills.

See <http://aase.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/documents/Press-release-re-phonics-test-2017-09-23-002.pdf>