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Catering for Adults with Dyslexia in my Course

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Adults and Dyslexia

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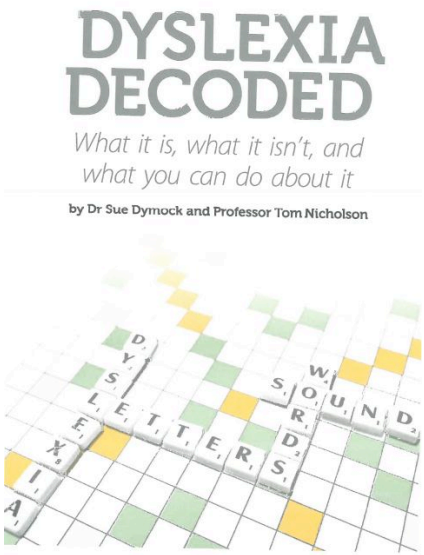
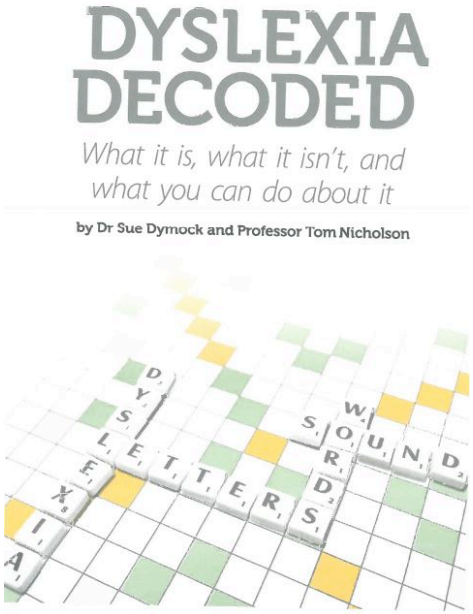
- Two resources (TEC funded)
  - Print-based

    Dyslexia Decoded: What it is, what it isn't, and what you can do about it



  - Multi-media (7 video clips)



Dyslexia Decoded

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Online Survey

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- December 2011

Survey was sent to 348 Private Training Establishments (PTEs) throughout New Zealand

90 responses

PTE Survey: Funding

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Type of Course	N	%
Fully funded (no fees)	62	69
Fee-paying	1	1
Both (of above)	26	29
No answer	1	1

PTE Survey: Students

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Students	N	%
Pasifika	1	1
Maori	13	14
Pakeha	32	36
ESL or International	3	3
Other (combination Maori & Pasifika; Maori & Pakeha)	40	44

PTE Survey: Size of PTE

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PTE Size	N	%
Small (less than 25 students)	11	12
Small to medium (26–99 students)	31	34
Medium (100–249 students)	21	23
Large (250+)	25	28

PTE Survey: Programmes Offered

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Programmes	N	%
Vocational	22	26
Numeracy & Literacy	18	21
Employment skills / basic computer	7	8
ESL	3	3
Other	3	3
Combination	20	23
Youth Training	8	9
N/A	5	

PTE Survey: Q1

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- Are there students in your PTE who are dyslexic?

Yes:	79	(88%)
No:	11	(12%)

Survey: Q1

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- What can you tell me about these students (76/90 responded to the question)

	N	%
Difficulty with reading & writing	31	41
Disengaged, low self-esteem, feel 'dumb'	7	9
Struggled at school/general learning difficulties	14	18
Disruptive, trouble maker,	7	9
Developed coping strategies	5	7

Survey: Q2

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- Does your PTE have a way of identifying students with dyslexia?

Yes: n= 48 (53%)

No: n= 41 (46%)

No answer n=1

Survey: Q2

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- If yes, what way is that? (46 responded)

	n	%
Tutor observations	9	19
Tutor assessments	22	46
Specialist / Assessor testing	3	6
Assessment Tool	6	13
Lucid / WWW	3	6
Other	4	8
N/A	1	2

Survey: Q3

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- Does you PTE have procedures for teaching students with dyslexia?
  - Yes: n=43 (48%)
  - No: n=45 (50%)
  - No response n=2 (2%)

Survey: Q3

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- Briefly describe the ways for teaching students with dyslexia: (43 PTEs responded)

	n	%
1:1 support; extra tutoring	14	33
PD/Training	3	6
Reader-writer	5	12
Visual /kinesthetic – multisensory strategies	4	9
Phonics using multisensory approaches	3	7
Personal interests/confidence building	9	21
Ron Davis	1	2

Survey: Q4

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- Is there any specific information you would like about dyslexia?
  - Yes n=71 (79%)
  - No n=17 (19%)
  - No answer = 2 (2%)

Survey: Q4

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- What information would you like? (69 PTEs answered)

	N	%
How to identify/ assess, diagnose	9	13
Successful/helpful strategies	9	13
More information/Programme & research	18	26
Training/PD	4	6
Combination of how to identify/assess and strategies	5	22
Other	4	6
Everything (more than 3 on list)	3	4
Resources	5	7

Survey: Q5

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- Do you think your PTE is adequately equipped to teach students with dyslexia?
  - Yes n=36 (40%)
  - No n=52 (58%)
  - No answer = 2

Survey: Q5

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- Why is that? (36 PTEs answered)

	N	%
Skilled or Trained staff	16	44
1:1 individual attention	7	19
We do need more resources/strategies	4	11
N/A	9	25

Knowledge needed to cater for students with dyslexia

(1) knowledge about what dyslexia is;

(2) the ability to identify students with dyslexia;

(3) an understanding of how to further develop reading and writing skills.

And more …

While this knowledge is fundamental to enhancing the reading and writing skills of adults with dyslexia, there is much more a tutor can do to cater for this group of students.

Possible Barriers

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Decoding difficulties

Spelling and writing difficulties

Time (due to decoding and spelling difficulties)

Inconsistent academic performance

Lifetime of feeling 'dumb'

Reluctant to ask for help

Unfamiliar with current technology

Unfamiliar with modern teaching approaches

Ways tutors can modify their teaching

- Present course content in a variety of ways
  - * using bullet points
  - * providing summaries
  - * using diagrams and charts
  - * providing demonstrations (show how)
  - * providing copy of PowerPoint so student can follow along
  - * utilising video and YouTube clips
  - * reading what you write on the whiteboard as you write

Ways tutors can modify their teaching

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- Be mindful of the speed at which the lesson content is presented
- Avoid covering too much content
- Provide adequate time to read and produce text
- Increase the font size of written text

How tutors can enhance the learning experience of students with dyslexia

- In addition to above
  - Do not ask adults with dyslexia to read aloud
  - Consider arranging a note taker
  - Consider arranging a reader – writer
  - Encourage use of the internet (e.g., Google image)
  - Consider dyslexia friendly ways of introducing new topics
  - Avoid distributing written material and asking students to read and discuss the same day.
  - Move around the room – assisting all students

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Time

Dyslexia robs you of time.

Adults with dyslexia need more time … to read, to write, to complete literacy tasks.