

Improving Outcomes for Struggling Students

An Australian tour by internationally renowned educator and author, Neil Mackay*. These full-day workshops have been designed specifically for teachers and focus on building practical, effective skills that can be adopted with ease.

Workshop 1 – Inclusive Education: Improving academic outcomes for all students with learning difficulties

“A must for all teachers wanting to better support children with learning difficulties in the classroom.”

Current estimates suggest that between 20% and 25% of Australian students experience learning difficulties and learning disabilities, affecting their potential to achieve academically. Students within this group include those with attentional disorders, such as ADHD, those with pervasive developmental disorders, such as Asperger's Syndrome, and those with academic skill disorders, such as dyslexia and dysgraphia.

This workshop focuses on the knowledge and strategies required by mainstream teachers to ensure that students with learning difficulties are able to participate fully in classroom activities and successfully navigate the curriculum. The emphasis will be on providing teachers with a range of practical strategies that have been successfully implemented in multiple settings and across a range of age-groups. Initially designed to meet the needs of students with dyslexia, these strategies have been found to assist all students struggling with learning difficulties and learning disabilities.

Workshop 2 – Intensive Support for Students with Dyslexia

This workshop is designed for teachers who provide ongoing support to students with learning disabilities. Most of these students require small group or one-on-one remediation as well as a range of accommodations in the classroom.

The focus will be on the strategies required to assist struggling students as they attempt to develop competencies in reading and writing. There will be an emphasis on dyslexic learners who appear to be 'stuck' and the skills that can be taught to improve reading, spelling and information processing. These will include the use of metacognition, learning preference and assistive technology.

* NEIL MACKAY is an educational consultant and trainer who created the concept of Dyslexia Friendly Schools in the UK. He is an experienced teacher who has taught for 26 years, working with children of all ages with a wide range of needs and abilities.

Neil is known for his ability to bring the classroom into his training and for providing lively, entertaining and thought provoking opportunities for teachers and allied professionals to reflect on and develop their practice. He has written a number of books including the extremely popular *Removing Dyslexia as a Barrier to Achievement* and *Taking the Hell out of Homework*. Both books can be purchased through the AUSPELD website – www.auspeld.org.au

2012 Australian Tour Dates and Locations:

WHEN Brisbane – May 28th and 29th
visit www.speld.org.au for further details

Sydney – June 1st and 2nd
visit www.speldnsw.org.au for further details

Melbourne – June 6th and 7th
visit www.speldvic.org.au for further details

Adelaide – June 9th
visit www.speld-sa.org.au for further details

Perth – June 12th and 13th
visit www.dsf.net.au for further details

Neil will also run two hour workshops for parents.
See web-sites for details.