

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of Dyslexia Support Groups affiliated with the Australian Dyslexia Association draws to the attention of the House the lack of recognition, funding and assistance provided to students with dyslexia in the education system in Australia.

Dyslexia is very prevalent in society but it is the forgotten learning disability in education. Up to 15% of Australians are affected by dyslexia and struggle daily with its implications. We want children with dyslexia to have the same opportunities in education as students without learning disabilities.

Left untreated, people with dyslexia underachieve in school resulting in limited employment opportunities, potential mental health issues and the risk of contact with the criminal justice system.

If detected early, and provided with quality evidence-based reading methods, children with dyslexia can learn to read and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Subsequently, increasing literacy rates in the population will increase the economic outcomes for a country.

We therefore ask the House to make dyslexia a high priority on the political agenda including:

1. Greater recognition and awareness of dyslexia in the education system.
2. Appropriate pre-service training and professional development for teachers in evidence-based teaching, teaching for differentiation and multisensory instruction.
3. Early identification and effective early literacy intervention for children identified 'at risk' of reading difficulties.
4. Ensure that students with dyslexia receive sufficient disability loading to provide appropriate learning support and reasonable adjustments.
5. The provision of specialist dyslexia teachers at the third level of intervention.
6. Implementation of the National Dyslexia Working Party recommendations.