

New course for teachers

EARLIER this year the then Minister of Education Steve Maharey announced that the Ministry would now recognise Dyslexia, the best-known Specific Learning Difficulty.

This news was greeted with enthusiasm by SPELD groups around New Zealand and the Dyslexia Foundation.

It is essential in the world of education and work today that everyone is able to read and write.

SPELD Wellington has worked to provide assessment and tuition for those with a Specific Learning Difficulty for over 35 years. During this time they have helped thousands of students to succeed at school in spite of their difficulty.

"Dyslexia" means not able to read. But that does not mean that a person with dyslexia cannot be taught to read.

They just don't pick it up unless they are taught in a particular way and often they have difficulty reading at the speed or ease that non dyslexics can. Once the condition is understood by the student and parents and teachers they can achieve good results.

Early identification is now being recognised as important for preventing students from becoming frustrated by their lack of success at reading.

In the past students with a learning difficulty have escaped notice because they

developed strategies to avoid having their difficulty discovered. For a child it is sometimes preferable to be thought of as funny or naughty rather than as unable to do something.

Early this year SPELD Wellington will run a course for trained teachers wanting to work individually with students with Specific Learning Difficulties.

The course is NZQA accredited and involves 75 hours of lectures/ activities. There are written assignments and final certification comes only after trainees have successfully tutored two students for approximately 40 hours and demonstrated that their assessment scores have improved.

The course is suitable for classroom teachers as well as those who work individually or with small groups of students.

Although in the past SPELD tutors worked with only a small total number of students it is possible to work almost full time and survive in a business like way. For this course we particularly want to hear from teachers who will make SPELD tutoring a significant part of their work life.

For further information contact Kylie at the SPELD Office 3828807 or Bernardine Reid 475 7927.