

IS YOUR SCHOOL DYSLEXIA

IF YOUR child's school has been recognised as a "Dyslexia Aware School" (DAS), chances are he or she is experiencing some very "switched on" learning in the classroom.

Schools which have undertaken workshops that highlight teaching methods supporting dyslexic students are being formally accredited as a "DAS" school.

Experience is showing that teachers who undertake this professional learning are equipped to respond far more effectively to the individual learning needs of all the students in their classroom.

While 10% of students are thought to have dyslexia, common sense tells us that all students are individuals and therefore have in-

dividual learning needs. When the teacher develops strategies that respond positively to those with dyslexia then it follows they are also catering more effectively for the individual needs of all students

Dyslexia Action Group Barossa and Gawler Surrounds (DAGBAGS) is a group of principals, teachers and learning support staff from all of the education sectors, along with several parents, speech therapists, school counsellors and a medical practitioner who share the passion for addressing the unmet needs of dyslexic students.

DAGBAGS is working closely with Mr Neil MacKay from the United Kingdom who created the dyslexia friendly school concept.

In October 2012 and March 2013 DAGBAGS, with Mr MacKay, hosted workshops for over 1400 educators, parents and students. Following these workshops the DAGBAGS committee created the "DAS" accreditation process to acknowledge a school's commitment to dyslexic students.

Mr MacKay is returning to Gawler in October to conduct further workshops for Pre-schools, Primary Schools, High Schools and TAFE.

Dr Sandra Marshall, DAGBAGS Chairperson said, "It is thought that only 1 dyslexic student in 8 is currently identified at school and that only 10 per cent of dyslexic students complete Year 12"