



Office of Hon Chris Carter

MP for Te Atatu

Minister of Education

Minister for Ethnic Affairs

Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office

24 JAN 2008

Dr Trevor Crosby
Dyslexia Parent Support Group
40 Monaghan Avenue
Mt Albert
Auckland 1025

Dear Trevor

Thank you for your email of 4 December 2007 regarding the views held by your Dyslexia Parent Support Group.

The Ministry of Education's current work programme on dyslexia has been informed by a close analysis of New Zealand-based research and experience and international strategies and approaches. The ministry's position is to support classroom teachers to better meet the needs of this student group as well as strengthen existing interventions. It is recognised that students with dyslexia are a very diverse group of students and there is significant individual difference in their needs and abilities. The ministry does not endorse ready-made commercial programmes and none are currently being considered as part of this response.

Ministry officials are working closely with the Dyslexia Foundation of New Zealand (DFNZ) who represent a range of stakeholder groups. I am unable to meet with you at this time due to a number of commitments but your continued input into DFNZ's discussions with officials will help inform further work in this area. The following have been identified as priorities: further investigation into assessment tools and processes, including the use of phonological tools as early indicators of reading and writing difficulties; reviewing policy around the current system of literacy interventions, including operational issues and system-wide co-ordination of the interventions; improving literacy interventions to support those most in need of assistance; and reviewing other related resources to ensure that they are targeted to where they are most needed. An information pamphlet for teachers and parents has already been distributed to schools and key stakeholder groups. Further information can be found on the ministry's Team Up website on:
<http://www.teamup.co.nz/primary-int/helpful/Dyslexia/default.htm>.

Thank you for your interest in this area.

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Carter
Minister of Education