

PARENTS CENTRE



19 June 2008

Parents Centres Calls On Government To Act On Dyslexia

This week marks Dyslexia Awareness Week and Parents Centres is calling on Government to act now to allocate dyslexia related education funding.

Parents Centres Chief Executive Officer Viv Gurrey said today that parents were fed up with waiting for the Government to take action to support dyslexic children.

“2007 saw an amazing milestone reached as Steve Maharey, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, officially recognised Dyslexia. Understanding has been raised, empathy is extended and most importantly we celebrate the amazing gift that those who think with a Dyslexic mind offer communities, families, friends and overall of course society,” she said.

However, as parents celebrate they have also waited. And Education Minister Chris Carter’s failure to come through with a funding announcement at the official launch of Dyslexia Awareness Week in Wellington last night was a huge disappointment. Parents are left still waiting.

“Tens of thousands of parents have waited for a promised investment by this Government in the professional development of our teachers and resources for our schools to enable those in the classroom to work with dyslexic children in a way that enables them to learn effectively and to utilise their amazing gift.

“Dyslexia Awareness week offered an amazing opportunity for Minister Carter to continue the work of Steve Maharey in this area of education. It is not to be overlooked that the skills and resources needed to effectively deliver education services to dyslexic children intrinsically benefit all others. The resources and competencies are not exclusive,” she says.

Now the waiting game continues. “While the Minister of Education waits, 70,000 families wait with him, continuing to struggle often with pain and heartache caused by dyslexia. While the Ministry of Education waits, between 10 and 35% of kids in our class room slip through the net of opportunity for learning. And schools all around the country continue to strive in vain to educate gifted children in a system that simply doesn’t work,” Viv Gurrey says.

“On top of this, in excess of 50% of prisoners in our jails languish with unaddressed learning difficulties.

In the interests of parents and families across New Zealand we can’t let this continue.”

“The time for lethargy and lip service to this country’s children and their ambition for the future has passed. We need to invest funding now to stop this travesty from continuing. Parents Centres calls on this government, as with successive governments before them to

stop waiting and to act now.

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About Parents Centres – www.parentscentre.org.nz

Parents Centres has 52 Centres across the country and provides one of the largest parenting networks and associated infrastructure to support parents and their children aged 0-6. The primary objective of the organisation has two streams: Community Support and Community Education. Parents Centres is the primary provider of Antenatal Education and childbirth support in New Zealand.