

Supporting Library Clients with Dyslexia

What do we know about dyslexia?

- Dyslexia is a persistent difficulty with reading and spelling
- Dyslexia affects an estimated ten percent of the population of Australia
- Dyslexia is the most common cause of reading, writing and spelling challenges and difficulties

While neurological in nature, dyslexia does not affect intelligence and is neither a vision issue nor due to a lack of motivation or interest to learn

Dyslexia is recognised in Australia under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and under the Human Rights Commission.

Source: [Australian Dyslexia Association](#)

What support can libraries offer?

Accessible formats

Audiobooks

Audiobooks can be an important and inclusive source of stories for people who have dyslexia. An audiobook allows a reader to enjoy a story without the stress and anxiety of attempting to decode the printed page.

Audiobooks provides essential learning, such as teaching about story structure, vocabulary and the nuances of speech. Furthermore, audiobooks encourage reading for pleasure and learning.

eBooks

eBooks offer flexible options in accessibility, including being able to increase the size of print, change fonts and adjust background settings. Some also have the option of choosing text-to-speech.

eBooks are available free of charge through many public libraries with apps such as Libby and BorrowBox. Commercial sources of eBooks include Kindle and Apple Books.

Decodable readers

Decodable readers are specific resources that are designed to support a structural and systematic approach to learning to read and spell. They are designed for people with dyslexia, and they are endorsed by the Australian Dyslexia Association (ADA).

Public libraries can support people with dyslexia by adding decodable readers to their collections, and having them available for clients to borrow.

Further support

Vision Australia

Vision Australia's Library provides access to thousands of audiobook titles free of charge for people who have dyslexia. The VA Connect app can link people to a world of stories. Libraries can refer clients to the [Vision Australia website for more information and to apply](#).

Australian Dyslexia Association

The ADA is the premier source of information about dyslexia in Australia. ADA offers a dyslexia pre-assessment service, and links families to accredited educational practitioners who can support a person with dyslexia.

Code Read

The Code Read Dyslexia Network are an advocacy group supporting the interests of people with dyslexia in Australia. Through their targeted ad campaigns they increase the profile of dyslexia, and are also a great source of information and support for families.

SPELD

SPELD is a multi-state service that connect families with resources and support, whether they are at the beginning of their dyslexia journey or need further and ongoing assistance.

This document has been prepared by the Vision Australia Library and Information Service which provides the print disability community with reading material in accessible formats. For more information on the service, visit [the Vision Australia Library website](#).