



Square Pegs
Dyslexia Support
and Advocacy

Summary of
Activities

Dyslexia:
Beautiful Minds

SQUAREPEGSTAS.ORG



About Square Pegs

Square Pegs is a registered charity, founded in 2013 by parents, academics and teacher/educators to improve recognition, understanding and action for children with dyslexia/specific learning disabilities (SLDs) in Tasmania.

Square Pegs is the peak source of independent advice for children with dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities (such as dysgraphia and dyscalculia) in Tasmania. Square Pegs has been providing a range of services on a self-funded basis for over seven years, relying on project related grants, fundraising, donations and own-source revenue generated through membership, conference and workshop fees as well as the generosity and commitment of our volunteers. Services include:

- Dyslexia/SLD **outreach** – advice, information, service referrals and peer support to families;
- Dyslexia/SLD **empowerment programmes** and events for children and young people; and
- Dyslexia/SLD **community and school-based awareness workshops** and professional learning.

There is a strong and consistent demand for these services.

“If you know someone else with dyslexia, it makes it easier, to know you’re not alone.” Evie (9)

Square Pegs has a proven record of being able to deliver services economically and effectively (see attached summary of activities).

We have a team of well-qualified Board members and other volunteers. We have established national and international networks and have partnered with a number of organisations during delivery of our workshops, conferences and other projects.

Your sincerely,



Amelia Jones
Chairperson, Square Pegs Dyslexia Support and Advocacy Inc.

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Attachment 3: Square Pegs Community Engagement and Activities

Our vision: To ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their potential and enjoy learning.

Our mission: To achieve greater recognition, understanding and action to empower children with dyslexia and related specific learning differences in Tasmania.

Our values: Respect, Integrity, Inclusion, Courage, Action.

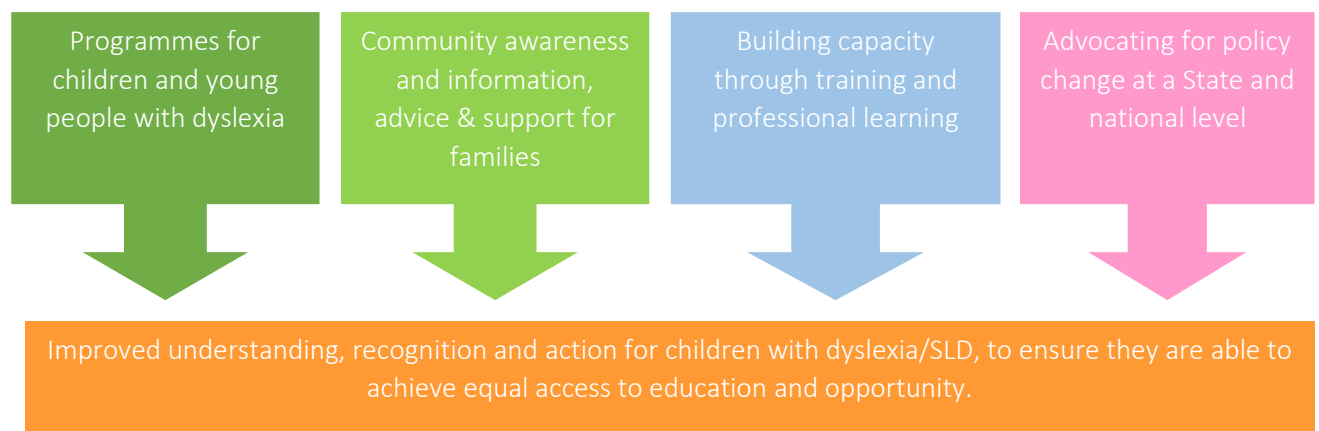
Our Board

At the June 2021, our Board comprises:

Chairperson	Amelia Jones
Secretary	Kathryn Van Dal
Treasurer	Peter Van Dal
Ambassador	Dr Judith Hudson
Member	Amanda Norgaard
Member	Harriet Fitzgerald
Member	Ella Blackburn

Our Strategic Drivers

Our strategic drivers focus on four key areas to improve outcomes on behalf of our members and all children with dyslexia or a related learning difference:



Summary of Past Activities

The below provides a high level summary of some of the programmes, activities and events Square Pegs has delivered in the community since its inception under our four strategic areas of focus.

Community awareness/direct support:



Get on Board National Advocacy Initiative 2018

Square Pegs was created in response to a need, and that need is still very evident in the state. Parents want information, need to understand, and need to know what can be done to support their child or children's learning at the critical stages of the education. We know enough through evidence-based research to understand that early identification and intervention are more likely to be the best practice to avoid failure to master learning at a later stage. In addition to providing free advice in response to hundreds of queries via our website, phone or facebook page, Square Pegs volunteers have hosted over **25 free parent support/peer network meetings across the State** (South, North, North West), offering parents and families a valuable opportunity to connect with others and to share and learn from their collective experiences. Initiatives and events, to provide the community, kids with dyslexia and their families with an opportunity to connect, raise awareness and build a community of support, include:

- Family BBQ, 20 June 2015;
- Family Park Outing, 22 October 2017;
- Dyslexi-ART competition, 2017;
- *Get on Board* kids event at Government House, 8 October 2018;
- Spring Soiree, October 2018;
- Kids Movie Day, 7 August 2021;
- Dyslexia Awareness Film Project, October 2021;
- Beautiful Minds Soiree and Film Launch, November 2021
- Beautiful Minds participant red carpet screening – 5 February 2022.



Beautiful Minds Film Launch, 2021

Community awareness/advocating for policy change: public speaking, interviews, articles

- ABC Northern Radio (Polly McGee), Amelia and Judith, 2 September 2014
- ABC Radio (Ryk Goddard), Judith and Amelia, 15 October 2014
- Word Search, The Mercury, 12 July 2015
- ABC Radio (Ryk Goddard) Jackie French, 12 August 2015
- Isolated Children's Parent Association AGM, 2015
- Rotary Huon, D'Encastreaux, Hobart, 2015
- TASSO Annual Conference, 2015
- Gearing Up Expos (Hobart, Burnie and Launceston), 2015
- EduTATE Magazine, June 2017
- Communicating: The Heart of Literacy Publication, 3 July 2018
- Communicating: The Heart of Literacy launch, 2018
- Square Pegs 'Get on Board' event, Southern Cross News, 9 October 2018
- ABC Radio (Ryk Goddard), Judy Hornigold, 12 November 2018
- Dear Dyslexic Podcast, Judith Hudson, 11 June 2019
- The Mercury, TV News, Phonics Screener Launch, Amelia Jones, 22 January 2020
- ABC Radio (Ryk Goddard), Amelia Jones, 11 September 2020
- The Mercury Talking Point: Why learning to read is no luxury, 29 October 2020
- Dear Dyslexia Virtual Conference, October 2021
- ABC News, 31 October 2021
- ABC Radio (Pia), Amelia Jones, February 2022

Advocating for policy change: policy submissions

- Review of Education Provision and Support for Students with Disabilities – 2014
- *Tasmania Education Act (2016)* consultation - contributions submitted (1. Amelia Jones representing Square Pegs and 2. JPH for Square Pegs and UTAS teaching courses) - 2016
- Budget Community Consultation – 2018
- Meeting with Minister of Education regarding Phonic Screener Check (PSC) – Amelia Jones, Sandra Marshall, and Rosalie Martin – 2019
- Roadmap to a Literate Tasmania, Tasmanian 100% Literacy Alliance (co-authors), 2021
- Submission - Tasmania's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – 2021
- Election submission – policy changes and funding for Square Pegs - 2021
- Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training: Adult literacy and its importance, Amelia Jones for the Tasmanian 100% Literacy Alliance, 29 July 2021

Community awareness/advocating for policy change: collaborative partners

Square Pegs is aligned to various local and national Groups concerned with raising awareness about dyslexia not only in Tasmania but nationwide and has collaborated or partnered with the following:

- University of Tasmania
- Connect 42
- National Disability Coordination Officer
- Code REaD
- Dear Dyslexic Foundation
- Tasmanian 100 % Literacy Alliance
- Educate Tutoring
- 100% Literacy Alliance

Building capacity: Square Pegs major conferences

As well as drawing on local expertise to help build capacity within the State through our workshops, Square Pegs has strived to bring national and international expert speakers to Tasmania. Details are summarised in the table below. The conferences were well supported by both public and independent schools (almost 200 attendees at each conference).

Conference	Speakers	From
<p><i>Making Connections: Raising Achievement of Vulnerable Learners</i> 31.10.2015 Hobart</p>	Jackie French Neil MacKay (UK) Dr Lorraine Hammond Ruth Croser (OT) Karen Starkiss Andrew Bridge Robert Carter Steve Capps	Canberra UK Western Australia Tasmania Victoria Victoria Tasmania Victoria
<p><i>Dyslexia & Dyscalculia: what's the denominator?</i> 07.10.2017 Hobart</p>	Prof Steve Chinn Judy Hornigold James Justice Bond Prof Michael Rowan Sarah Asome Bill Hansbury Mandy Nayton Rosalie Martin	UK UK NSW Adelaide Melbourne Adelaide Western Australia Tasmania
<p><i>Literacy-Education-Dyslexia-Inclusion</i> 12.09.2019 Hobart</p>	Dr Christopher Edwards Professor Pamela Snow Lyn Stone Dr Sandra Marshall Rosalie Martin Dierdre Arendt & Deb Button Lisa Ford	Tasmania Melbourne Adelaide South Australia Tasmania Tasmania Tasmania



Building capacity: workshops, conferences and professional learning

Square Pegs, with the assistance of Board member Dr Judith Hudson and Simon Thiessen, has developed its own *Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop* which has been delivered by volunteers to school communities around the State. In addition, Square Pegs has bought many interstate and international experts to deliver professional learning events. We have also raised funds and provided 18 scholarships to encourage educators to complete Orton Gillingham/MSLE courses to build skills in direct instruction/science of reading approaches to teaching reading.

Date	Location/Venue	Description
07.08.2014	South Hobart Primary School	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers & Parents-whole school community
19.08.2014	Ba’Hai centre	Community presentation
20.08.2014	Peregrine School-	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers & Parents-whole school community
25.08.2014	Franklin School	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers & Parents-whole school community
28.08.2014	Burnie CCC	Teachers workshop –Judith Hudson, Dorothy Walker and Catherine Wood (Speech therapist)
29.08.2014	Neighborhood House Burnie	Parents workshop – Judith Hudson
01.09.2014	Huonville Primary School	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers
09.09.2014	Lindisfarne Library	Words Fail Me-LINK presentation
18.10.2014	Philip Smith Building Hobart	Free Community Forum Hobart all day (Square Pegs Board; Panel: Psychologist, Educator, Speech therapist; Disability representative)
22.10.2014	PCYC Building-Huonville	Parent Network/Support ‘Drop-in’
25.10.2014	UTAS Launceston	Free Community Forum-all day (Square Pegs Board; Psychologist, Educator, Speech therapist; Disability representative)
0.10.2014	Burnie CCC	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Community & parents
04.11.2014	Cygnets School	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers & Parents
29.01.2015	Bridgewater School	Teachers - dyslexia workshops (Judith & Dorothy Walker)
24.02.2015	South Hobart Primary	Parents and Teachers - Strategies for teaching students with dyslexia.
05.03.2015	Blackman’s Bay Primary School	Teachers - Square Pegs Workshop (Judith & Simon)
05.03.2015	Grand-Chancellor Hotel	Rotary Talk –About Square Pegs (Judith)
28.07.2015	Hadley’s hotel	Consultant - Education Act reform (Judith)
26.08.2015	Southern Christian College Kingston	Teachers –whole staff (Judith)
04.09.2015	Boat Harbour School	Teachers (Judith)
09.2015	Hobart, Launceston, Burnie	Gearing Up Expos
31.10.2015	Hobart	Square Pegs Conference: Making Connections
13.11.2015	ARACY Conference	Grand Chancellor Hotel- (Judith presented paper)

17.11.2015	Ulvestone School	Parents meeting (Joanne, Judith & Dorothy)
18.11.2015	Burnie CCC	Teachers workshop (Judith)
02.12.2015	Stanley Burbury Theatre-	Presentation at Teaching Matters Conference-Square Pegs model of community engagement; (Judith)
09.12.2015	Blackman's Bay Primary	Square Pegs workshop -1 What is Dyslexia? Teachers-whole staff (Judith)
14.12.2015	Blackman's Bay Primary	Square Pegs Workshop -2 Differentiation Strategies Teachers-whole staff (Judith)
01.02.2016	Leighland Christian School, Bridgewater	Square Pegs workshop Teachers-whole school (Judith & Dorothy)
04.02.2016	Scotch Oakburn Junior school - Launceston,	Square Pegs Workshop Teachers-whole school (Judith)
09.02.2016	Burnie UTAS campus CCC	Square Pegs Parent workshop (Judith & Dorothy)
22.08.2016	Hobart	William van Cleave (US): Word Smarts – using morphology to develop vocabulary and word attack skills. In collaboration with Educate Tutoring
23.08.2016	Hobart	William van Cleave (US): From Words to Works – developing writing skills in student writers. In collaboration with Educate Tutoring
10.10.2016	Hobart	Neil MacKay (UK): Taking the hell out of homework Concurrent with DoE workshops (following Neil's attendance at Square Pegs 2015 conference)
11.10.2016	Burnie	Neil MacKay (UK): Taking the hell out of homework
12.10.2016	Launceston	Neil MacKay (UK): Taking the hell out of homework
11.11.2016	Hobart	Lorraine Hammond (WA): Let's Decode Training DOE Funding & Square Pegs (Assisted by: Dr. Belinda Hopwood-UTAS & Judith)
22.11.2016	Mt Stuart Primary School	Square Pegs parent workshop. 11.30am-12.20pm (Judith & Amanda)
28.11.2016	Mt Stuart workshop	Square Pegs Teachers workshop. 3.15pm-4.45pm
23.01.2017	UTAS Sandy Bay Campus	Dyslexia Summer School Teachers-strategies for teaching dyslexic students. Square Pegs (Judith & Dorothy)
25.01.2017	Launceston –Newnham Campus	Dyslexia Summer School Teachers-strategies for teaching dyslexic students. Square Pegs (Judith & Dorothy)
31.01.2017	Burnie CCCampus	Dyslexia Summer School Teachers-strategies for teaching dyslexic students. (Judith)
07.02.2017	South Hobart Primary & Mt Stuart Primary combined	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers & Parents (Judith & Amanda)
01.03.2017	Landsdowne Primary School	Parent support group 3.30pm-4.45pm (Judith & Amanda)
20.07.2017	Educate-Naomi Wright Kingston	Square Pegs Workshop -1 parents and teachers. 'What is dyslexia?'
25.09.2017	Hobart	Disability Commission' Not all disabilities are visible' Square Pegs. 4pm-6pm What is the NCCD? (Judith)
27.09.2017	Educate-Naomi Wright-2 Kingston	' Dyslexia-What can you do? Parents & Teachers (Judith)

7.10.2017	Hobart	Square Pegs Conference: Dyslexia & Dyscalculia: what's the denominator?
27.02.2018	Taroona Primary School	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers
01.03.2018	Huonville Primary School	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop -Teachers
21.03.2018	Bothwell School-also Teachers also from Brighton School, Oatlands Schools, and others.	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Parents and Teachers workshop 4pm to 7.30pm. (Judith)
27.03.2018	Lansdowne Primary School-	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers (Judith)
28.03.2018	Southern Christian College, Kingston	Teachers Dyslexia awareness workshop, Square Pegs 3.15pm to 4.45pm –Gr7-Gr12 (Judith)
07.04.2018	St Helen's Trade Training Centre	All day advocacy workshop for parents (Judith)
10.04.2018	St Helen's High School,	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness Workshop Teachers and staff
11.04.2018	Kingston High School	Teachers full staff -3.30-4.45pm
11.04.2018	Kingston High School	Parent and open public Raising awareness about dyslexia 5.30 to 7pm (Judith)
12.04.2018	Golbourne Street Primary School	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness workshop Teachers (full staff)
29.10.2018	Hobart	Mary Dahlgren (US): Understanding the why and how of sounds walls
12&13.11.2018	Hobart	Judy Hornigold (UK): Understanding dyslexia and dyscalculia
14.11.2018	Hobart	Judy Hornigold (UK): Maths Anxiety, Bar Modelling and Problem Solving
20.11.2018	Kingston	Free Dyslexia Q&A with Linda McKillop
25.03.2019	Hobart	Adult Tutors workshop (Square Pegs partnering with Dear Dyslexic & NDCO)
27.03.2019	Launceston	Adult Tutors workshop (Square Pegs partnering with Dear Dyslexic & NDCO)
10.04.2019	Deloraine, TAS	One day Health professionals workshop –Square Pegs <i>Brain development and Learning Difficulties</i>
21.05.2019	Taroona High School	Whole staff-teachers & guests teachers from other schools (95+) (Judith & Kare Trendall, Speech Therapist)
09.08.2019	Taroona High School	Grade 7 Literacy Coordinators meeting
04.08.2019	UTAS Sandy Bay Campus	Learning Advisors workshop- (Judith)
12.09.2019	Hobart Yacht Club	Square Pegs Conference: Literacy, Education, DysLEXia, Inclusion
12.09.2019	Hobart Yacht Club Conference	Parent workshop

16.09.2019	Taroona High School	Grade 7 Teachers' literacy workshop
26.09.2019	Beaconsfield Primary School	Making Connections: Dyslexia Awareness workshop Teachers-full staff and parents (Judith)
30.10.2019	Dominic College	Student advocacy/parent support (Judith)
27.02.20	Hobart	Judy Hornigold (UK): Maths difficulties related to dyslexia and dyscalculia
28.02.20	Hobart	Judy Hornigold (UK): Singapore Maths

