

## Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Education  
Minister for Women  
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



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Tēnā koe Sharon

Thank you for your letter of 8 March 2023 about support for ākonga with dyslexia. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts.

Both the Government and the Ministry of Education want all children and young people, including those with additional learning support needs such as dyslexia, to receive a high-quality education that enables them to reach their full potential.

In my response to your 7 September 2022 letter of support, I outlined the key goals of the Literacy & Communication and Maths Strategy, and highlighted the upcoming development of the Common Practice Model. I am very pleased to be able to share that the principles and evidence-informed pedagogical approaches have now been released and are available at [education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/curriculum-and-assessment-changes/common-practice-model/](https://education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/curriculum-and-assessment-changes/common-practice-model/).

You may be particularly interested in the 'Strengthening explicit teaching in literacy and communication' pedagogical approach. This is described as essential for ākonga struggling with aspects of literacy and communication, and includes structured literacy, science of learning and cognitive load theory in the list of key search terms. Evidence-informed pedagogical practices will be released later in 2023.

The Strategy recommends that children and young people across the spectrum of neurodiversity receive targeted, evidence-based and easy-to-access support. A system of literacy and communication learning supports will be developed that align with the Common Practice Model. This work will involve reviewing existing supports, including Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Support, alongside considering the role of Learning Support Coordinators and Resource Teachers of Literacy.

As you know, the Ministry does not require that a child or young person is diagnosed with dyslexia to receive support. Teachers are encouraged to identify issues and provide help for literacy and other learning areas as early as possible. A coherent system of professional learning supports, also aligned to the Common Practice Model, will be developed for teachers and leaders as part of the implementation of the Strategy. The goal is to provide clear, evidence-informed guidance on how to effectively teach literacy, communication and maths in a way that meets the needs of diverse learners.

In addition, the updated content for the list of 'Non-ministry resources to support students' on the dyslexia kete has been finalised and uploaded to [literacyonline.tki.org.nz/Literacy-Online/Learning-about-my-students-](https://literacyonline.tki.org.nz/Literacy-Online/Learning-about-my-students-)

[needs/Knowledge-of-the-learner/Literacy-and-students-with-special-education-needs/Dyslexia](#). This provides information about resources for ākonga with dyslexia, as well as guidance for kaiako on selecting effective resources.

The intention of the Strategy is that more learners will have more of their needs met through an inclusive curriculum, along with a particular focus on promptly identifying any needs for additional support.

I hope this information assures you of the Government's ongoing commitment to improve literacy outcomes for all ākonga in Aotearoa New Zealand. Thank you again for writing, and I wish you all the very best.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Tinetti', written in a cursive style.

Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Minister of Education**