

30 November 2006

Dear Ms Dyson,

I was most heartened to see that you were at the opening of the Dyslexia Foundation yesterday. Your recognition of dyslexia, is certainly something that is encouraging as I do not believe your education minister recognises it as a issue separate from literacy issues.

I however, have taken note of the comment printed in the Herald article of today's date that "resources are available to help children with these difficulties. This could mean individual tutoring or assistance for these children." I would like you to direct me to where these resources are available for my dyslexic son, as he has had no targeted assistance in this area whatsoever, other than that provided by us privately. I know I am not alone with respect to this issue and encourage you to actually check your facts with the education minister prior to these bold statements being made in the press and offering encouragement, when in fact to our knowledge there is no such resource and Mr Maharey has openly refused to recognise Dyslexia when interviewed on TV 1 recently.

I could provide you with a list of 15 children in two year levels at my local school who are dyslexic and receive no targeted government assistance.

If the Labour Government is indeed so concerned with the education in this country they would do well to see the amount of resource dyslexia receives in Australia, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A where specialist programmes are in operation, and teacher training covers dyslexia.

As the Labour Party has already proven they are not serious in giving all school age children the necessary resources they require to achieve basic literacy, it would be refreshing to see you as the disability minister put pressure on the education minister, to ensure some targeted response to the issue. Reading recovery which is useless to these children is offered up continually as the answer, it is no where near the correct answer. Reading recovery isn't even able to recognise the issues most of these children face.

Maybe the Labour Party can show us they are genuinely concerned and provide meaningful resources in basic Literacy?

Yours