

18 August 2018

Dyslexia Victoria Support takes home Victorian Premier's Volunteer Champion Awards 2018

Dyslexia Victoria Support's (DVS) leadership team has been recognised with a Premier's Volunteer Champion Award for their ongoing voluntary advocacy for Victorian families dealing with dyslexia.

The team, consisting of Heidi Gregory, Carolyn Merritt, and Sarah Asome, are invited to a formal ceremony honouring all award recipients at Government House on Sunday, 9 September, to be attended by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Governor Linda Dessau AC.

"The team at DVS is really a small group of volunteers who give their time to support and advocate for Victorians with dyslexia. To receive this formal recognition is incredibly humbling. We would like to thank all those who support us on an ongoing basis, as well as the Premier and the Governor for their formal acknowledgement of our crucial work", says Co-founder Ms Gregory.

The DVS team has leveraged social media to provide a resource hub unlike anything in Victoria – a vibrant online community to discuss and raise awareness of dyslexia.

"Each of us has been affected personally by lack of appropriate information earlier in our journeys with dyslexia. We wanted to provide evidence-based resources in an accessible way to assist others and prevent the waste of precious time and money that comes from being misinformed", says Ms Merritt.

The team answers daily queries, coordinates dyslexia awareness events, shares knowledge at information sessions, and collaborates with industry bodies on a volunteer basis.

"With so many misconceptions surrounding dyslexia and what constitutes evidence-based interventions, DVS has been pivotal in supporting thousands of people across the state. We would like to see everyone with dyslexia have equal access to success in our schools and work places. The DVS team feel extremely privileged to be recognised for their volunteer work," says Mrs. Asome.

Since its creation in 2014, the DVS Facebook page has fast become the 'heart and soul' of Victoria's dyslexic community, boasting over 3500 members (including families, teachers and allied health professionals) and growing daily.

With their shared vision for dyslexia education and awareness, the DVS team has:

- Collated over 100 dyslexia-related factsheets
- Mentored the launch of 16 local and regional Victorian dyslexia support groups
- Developed a DVS website (dyslexiavictoriasupport.com)
- Coordinated an annual state-wide family day for dyslexia awareness ([Light it Red for Dyslexia](#));
- Supported the launch of a national dyslexia network ([Code REaD Network](#))

For more information, visit dyslexiavictoriasupport.com.

Media contact: Heidi Gregory | Mobile: 0419672046 | dvsaustralia@gmail.com