

Square Pegs vision of ‘Lighthouse’ for children with dyslexia becomes a reality



Dyslexia impacts over 10 per cent of the population, but it is often an ‘invisible’ disability. The team at Tasmanian charity Square Pegs Dyslexia Support has been working for ten years to turn this around and their vision for a ‘light house’ for children with dyslexia is about to become a reality.

“When a parent finds out that their child has a specific learning disability, like dyslexia, it can be a really scary time. We know that peer led navigation of this journey makes a significant difference, ensuring that children with dyslexia feel seen, understood and supported.” says Square Pegs co-founder, Amelia Jones.

The Government’s strong plan for Tasmanian schools and lifting literacy acknowledges the important role of families, schools and the community working together to improve educational outcomes. To be effective partners in this journey, parents and families must be empowered to participate in the conversation regarding their child’s learning.

The Government’s funding commitment of \$800 000 over four years will help Square Pegs to expand its successful programs for children with dyslexia and their families. Square Pegs programs include parent workshops, awareness events and empowerment camps to build young people’s self-esteem and ability to self-advocate, which is a vital to overcoming the challenges of dyslexia. “The Government’s commitment to provide base funding for key services to empower children with dyslexia and their families will change lives.” says Amelia.

Paul Stagg and his daughter Maggie both have dyslexia. Paul spent most of his life masking his literacy challenges, only accessing help and support at the age of thirty-eight. He was determined that things would be different for Maggie “Without being dramatic, Square Pegs saved us. This was our group, people that understood us, I could be myself. But most of all support Maggie” he says.

Contact: Amelia Jones, Chairperson 0455 070 121 | squarepegstas@gmail.com | squarepegstas.org

12 September 2024