Minister for Education the Hon Christopher Pyne MP hosted a dyslexia roundtable in Adelaide on 13 June 2014. This was the first in a series of education policy roundtables to be held on issues affecting students with disability and learning difficulties, involving students, parents, teachers, education experts and the community.

As many as one in ten Australians experience dyslexia, ranging from mild to severe cases. Appropriate identification and support in schools will help young people with dyslexia to achieve their potential at school.

The roundtable provided a forum for constructive discussion around what is working in schools and what can be done better. Participants on the day provided a number of practical suggestions to support students with dyslexia including:

- **Early Identification**: focussing on timely screening, early intervention, and equipping teachers with information on free screening resources and pathways to formal diagnosis by professionals.
- **Teacher Education**: the need for high quality teacher preparation and training around identifying and supporting students with dyslexia and other learning difficulties. Also raised was the need for greater use of evidence and solid research about the literacy interventions, educational adjustments and assistive technology that best support student results.
- **Dyslexia-Friendly Schools**: schools in Australia should aspire to become dyslexia-friendly and help students with learning difficulties reach their full potential. In line with the Australian Government’s focus on school autonomy, school leaders and communities should be given the ability to make decisions on the type of activities and professional development that suits the needs of their students, including dyslexia interventions.
- **Assessment and Examinations**: access to technology and other support during exams is important to help students with dyslexia and learning difficulties achieve their potential.

The Australian Government is committed to addressing education issues that affect students, parents, teachers and the community. Through future roundtables and other discussions, Minister Pyne will continue to consult on how to improve education outcomes for students with disability and learning difficulties. It is essential that every Australian student gets the best education possible, regardless of circumstance.

Further information including presentations from the day and the Minister’s opening address is available at [www.studentsfirst.gov.au](http://www.studentsfirst.gov.au).