



www.dfqm.nz

New Zealand Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark

Ako Aotearoa and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) are proud to make available the New Zealand Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark (DFQM) – the only mark of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

The Quality Mark recognises organisations that take a strategic approach to creating an inclusive environment for learners, trainees, or clients with dyslexia. It is designed to promote appropriate support measures and practical guidance.

The DFQM is awarded to organisations that measure their practices against a set of DFQM standards in four key areas:

- » leadership and management
- » the quality of teaching and learning
- » the teaching and learning environment provided for learners
- » the quality of the organisation's relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

The Quality Mark is awarded for three years and can be renewed after this period.

The DFQM benefits the sector and learners

Learners, trainees, or clients with dyslexia will be assured that an organisation with the DFQM is a safe place for them, where their needs are understood and met. Here is some feedback from learners who benefit from the DFQM in organisations:

- » *It has created a warm, non-judgmental, and friendly environment*
- » *Learning is consolidating, and my confidence is growing*
- » *I feel safe to be myself*
- » *I increased my knowledge of dyslexia, which helped my learning*
- » *Knowing I have dyslexia is a weight off my shoulders*



“The Tertiary Education Commission has supported Ako Aotearoa in the development of an exciting new initiative which is part of our wider programme of work around neurodiversity. We encourage all tertiary education organisations to use this opportunity to be accredited as a dyslexia-friendly organisation. Adopting the Mark will promote best practice within organisations and not only build educator capability, but most of all, it will ensure that learners with dyslexia are fully supported in their learning journey and have every opportunity to thrive.”

Paora Ammunson, Deputy Chief Executive
Learner Success Ōritetanga Directorate, Tertiary Education Commission

The DFQM recognises organisations

The DFQM provides an opportunity for an organisation to be recognised for taking the steps to establishing themselves as a dyslexia-friendly organisation.

These organisations have been awarded the DFQM: Kāpiti Youth Support; UCOL Horowhenua; Capital Training; Hagley Adult Literacy Centre; Ashburton Learning Centre; Edvance; SIT Invercargill Campus; Open Polytechnic, Te Pūkenga - Learning Delivery

Here is what some of these organisations had to say about the DFQM process:

"Having the Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark will demonstrate to our learners that we are serious about dyslexia. The Quality Mark will provide us with an environment where we can learn from like-minded organisations, together as a group, rather than individually."

**Mike Kelleher -
Managing Director of**

"The Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark provides a good framework for us to support our students and help them move forward in their qualifications. It's reassuring for students to be in a more sympathetic and empathetic environment, and it helps boost their confidence and raise their self-esteem."

**Vicky Beckwith - Literacy and
Numeracy Leader for UCOL**

"A key impact of undertaking the DQFM process has been the significant jump in our understanding and responsiveness towards dyslexia – we're now an organisation that has dyslexia front and centre of our attention to ākonga experience and success."

**Dr Lynne Brice -
Manager of Open
Polytechnic Learning
Delivery**

More information and how to apply

We have developed an online tool to guide you through the application and submission process. Our facilitators will support you in your self-assessment against the standards, the implementation of your action plan, and the preparation of your portfolio of evidence. The process is driven by your own timetable and fully supported by our facilitators.

Please visit www.dfqm.nz to register your organisation's interest in the DFQM, or contact Annette van Lamoen at annette.vanlamoen@ako.ac.nz for more information.



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