

Self-advocacy and access to assessment adjustments: Exploring the knowledge and experiences of Queensland high school students with dyslexia.
QUT Ethics Approval Number 7678

Research team

Principal Researcher:	Claire Ting	PhD student
Associate Researcher(s):	Associate Professor Sofia Mavropoulou	Principal Supervisor
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	Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice	
	Queensland University of Technology (QUT)	

Why is the study being conducted?

This research project is part of a PhD study for Claire Ting. The purpose of this project is to understand what high school assessment is like for students with dyslexia. We want to know how your school makes changes to assessment so that you can show what you have learned.

What does participation involve?

Part 1 of the study

Your participation will involve an interview through a video conferencing platform (either Zoom, or Microsoft Teams), that will take up to one hour. You will need access to the internet, and a working webcam and microphone. The interview will be scheduled at a time that is convenient for you. The interview will be recorded and will be deleted after the interviews have been typed into transcripts.

Topics will include questions about:

- What types of assessment you have experienced
- What changes to assessment your school has offered you
- Your experiences talking to teachers about what would help you with assessment

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project without comment or penalty. You can withdraw any time during the interview, and up to two weeks after the interview transcript has been sent to you. After this time, your answers will be deidentified and compiled with other participants' answers, so it may not be possible to remove them from the dataset. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT.

You will be able to review a transcript of your responses after the interview.

Part 2 of the study

By interviewing many students with dyslexia, we will see what people say is helpful or unhelpful for assessment. We will then invite you to join a small focus group on Zoom (or Teams) to share your

ideas about what schools could do to make it easier for students with dyslexia to ask for what they need in assessment. Even if you complete an interview, it is **optional** to join a focus group.

Each focus group will be made up of between 3 and 6 students with dyslexia who have all done the same interview. You will hear about common answers that students gave to the interview questions. You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts about how schools can make it easier for students with dyslexia to express what they need to succeed in high school assessment.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

This research project may not benefit you directly. The project is mainly expected to benefit high school students with dyslexia more generally. By hearing about your experiences, we want to find out what schools do that is helpful or unhelpful for students with dyslexia. We hope this will encourage schools to listen to students with dyslexia about what they find helpful in assessment.

You can request a brief summary of the outcomes of the study by ticking a box on the consent form.

To recognise your contribution should you choose to participate, the research team is offering a \$30 Ultimate Student Gifts Card for your time spent doing the interview, and an additional \$30 Ultimate Student Gifts Card if you choose to participate in a focus group.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are some minor risks associated with your participation in this research project. These include:

- Possible discomfort from talking about personal experiences, and
- Possible loss of privacy from discussing personal experiences within a focus group.

The risk of discomfort will be managed by making sure there is no pressure to discuss anything that makes you uncomfortable. I have a lot of experience in helping people feel comfortable talking about dyslexia and I will check in or change the topic if you seem hesitant. I will also talk about what support you can access if you need it.

In the focus groups, I will keep your identity private. Before joining the Teams call, I will set the expectation that people will not share personal information, will not wear school uniform on camera, and will not share anything discussed in the group with anyone not in the group. I will attempt as far as possible to make sure that nobody in the focus groups attend the same school as each other. However, it is possible that despite these efforts, people in the focus group may recognise each other from elsewhere. In this instance, you may choose to leave the focus group and if possible, attend another.

QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Your school may also have a counsellor or other supports available. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24-hour telephone crisis support. If you are aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

At the interview, you will be asked to choose a pseudonym (fake name). This will be linked to your contact details by a code that will only be viewed by the research team. The code and identifying information will be destroyed once transcripts have been written. Any interview transcript or responses will only be recorded with your chosen pseudonym.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be disclosed to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

As the research project involves a video and audio recording:

- Due to the sensitive nature of the information, the recording will be destroyed after the interview has been transcribed.
- The recording will not be used for any other purpose.
- Only the named researchers will have access to the recording.
- It is not possible to participate in the research project without being recorded.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, we will only include the relevant part of a quote, we will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded. Nevertheless, while unlikely, it is possible that if you are quoted directly your identity may be recognised.

How do I give my consent to participate?

We would like to ask you to sign a consent form

https://qsurvey.qut.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_cOdWW9PsjgvQpg2 to confirm your agreement to participate. You will need a parent or carer to sign the consent form too.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact one of the listed researchers:

Claire Ting	c.ting@hdr.qut.edu.au	(07) 3138 3469
Sofia Mavropoulou	sofia.mavropoulou@qut.edu.au	(07) 3138 3469

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.