

WELCOME TO 'DOCSYKES'

Dr Stewart Sykes has a distinguished career in special education and developmental, educational and clinical psychology. Beginning his professional life as a qualified primary and special education teacher, Stewart established the first experimental, "opportunity-remedial" grade in a Melbourne primary school in the 1960s. Following a brief period teaching in a "regular" primary school, Stewart joined the then Education Department's Curriculum and Research Branch as a research psychologist. Topics investigated included reading readiness, reading and spelling strategies and methods of instruction in Special Schools. In 1971, Stewart was appointed as a teaching fellow in the Faculty of Education at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Teaching and research activities were basically in the fields of special education and educational and clinical psychology.

During Stewart's last 10 years at Monash University he held the joint positions as an Associate Professor of Psychology and Special Education and Director of the Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children. The Centre provided direct clinical experiences for students studying in the fields of special education and educational and clinical psychology. Children and adolescents with special needs including those with learning difficulties and developmental and behavioural problems, and gifted and talented students attended the Centre. Services provided included assessment, program planning and implementation, teacher training, practica for psychologists and parenting programs. Staff included special education teachers, psychologists, audiologists, speech therapists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

Following his time at Monash University, Stewart has continued to run a private practice as a special education teacher and an educational and clinical psychologist. He provides advisory and consultative services to Universities and Colleges, clinics, schools, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, other Educational Institutions and Professional Organisations.

Stewart's psycho-educational reports have been highly valued by teachers, psychologists, medical practitioners and parents as they provide a clear description of test results and interpretations and explicit instructional guidelines and recommendations.

Stewart's areas of special interest include the following-learning difficulties and learning disabilities, dyslexia, attention-deficit disorders, developmental and behavioural problems, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, giftedness and parenting.

Stewart also provides psychological therapeutic services for children, adolescents and adults under the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

Much of the information presented on the Website has been drawn from several decades of clinical practice and research. Stewart has some 3,500 files on individuals he has assessed. In addition, he reviews over 300 psychological reports annually on students seeking special funding or special examination provisions.