

## **GLD Australia face-to-face meetings:**

As well as communicating via its Yahoo discussion group, GLD Australia members who live in the same city, town, local area or regional/remote area are encouraged to hold ad hoc **face-to-face meetings** if they wish but, because GLD Australia is not an incorporated association and has no insurance, local groups will need to find a venue which does not require a certificate of currency.

There are no 'rules' regarding the holding, frequency, administration or advertising of such individual GLD Australia gatherings. Participants may appoint a local convenor to call regular meetings and source guest speakers, or they may just agree among themselves to meet at X time in Y cafe. Face-to-face meeting dates and topics are announced on the Yahoo group.

To date Sydney and Adelaide have set up regular meeting groups, and it is expected that Southeast Queensland will follow soon. Meeting convenor volunteers are sought in other centres.

## **What kinds of issues are discussed by GLD Australia?**

At both face-to-face meetings and on the Yahoo group, members discuss issues such as: interpreting IQ assessments, raising and teaching GLD children and teens, liaising with schools and teachers, applying for disability adjustments for State exams and other tests, as well as a wide variety of learning disabilities and other learning challenges, such as ADHD and ASD. In keeping with the GLD 'recipe' of BOTH feed the gift AND accommodate/remediate the disabilities, topics about supporting 'plain' gifted are also included.

## **More information:**

Questions about GLD Australia are welcomed. General questions and reports of difficulty in joining electronically may be addressed to the national coordinator, Carol Barnes: [carol@bartink.com.au](mailto:carol@bartink.com.au)



Advocating for giftedness  
with learning disability

Do you know a **gifted** child with a  
**learning disability?**

Or perhaps a child with high intellectual potential but also  
'something else going on'  
which sometimes interferes with some aspects of school  
achievement and/or social/emotional well-being,  
both inside and outside school?

Are you a teacher with a student who seems quite bright  
but whose academic output is inexplicably  
erratic and inconsistent?

Or perhaps you are an adult who has enjoyed  
considerable success in life, but may have  
always suspected that there was  
'something' holding you back?

Maybe you're a medical or allied health professional who  
works with people such as those described above?

**Then perhaps you'll be interested in  
learning more about  
GLD Australia**

## What is GLD Australia?

GLD Australia is a national not-for-profit online learning community and support group responding to the needs of gifted children and gifted adults with specific learning disability and other learning challenges (**GLD**). Through the sharing of information, research and personal experiences, GLD Australia members seek to provide support for GLD children and for those who care for, teach and advocate for them.

Formed in Jun 2012, GLD Australia is an independent community with a member-owned and member-operated **closed and non-archived** Yahoo group list. It is affiliated with the Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented (**AAEGT**): <http://www.aegt.net.au>, which is the Australian national umbrella association for State gifted associations. GLD Australia has no political or commercial affiliations.

## Who joins GLD Australia?

Members of GLD Australia include parents, educators and other professionals dedicated to promoting awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by GLD people and related issues, thereby assisting them to benefit from specialised identification and intervention or treatment as early as possible. Members participate in the community as individuals and support one another without commercial interest.

Participants in GLD Australia represent a very diverse group – from those whose child or student has been formally identified as gifted and/or as having a learning disability or related issue, to those who simply have a 'feeling' that the child is not achieving academically as well as they could or should. Included also are gifted adults who may have achieved extraordinary things in their lives, yet may have always suspected that there was 'something' holding them back – perhaps in the areas of reading or writing or spelling or math or concentration or emotional regulation.

You may have seen such individuals referred to internationally as '**2e**' (twice-exceptional) or '**DME**' (dual or multiple exceptionality).

## Why was GLD Australia formed?

Parents and teachers sometimes assume that all clever children, having supposedly won the genetic lottery, will invariably enjoy school, learn effortlessly, and succeed academically. Sadly this is not always the case. Some gifted children are every day silently struggling with an unidentified learning disability or other learning challenge.

Children need not be actually failing at school to be suffering from a learning disability – many are not identified until late primary or early high school. A surprising number of gifted children experience chronic underachievement due to learning disability – and the higher the IQ, the later an accurate diagnosis is made. By then for some gifted, it may already be too late.

## How do I join GLD Australia?

Joining GLD Australia is **free**.

Simply send an email to: [gld.australia@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gld.australia@yahoo.com.au)

You will be sent an auto-invitation to join. Follow the steps in the invitation and your name will be added automatically.

As a GLD Australia Yahoo group member, you can either read others' messages or post your own messages (or both!). Members' names will never appear on the forum unless they post a message.

Although there is no fee to join, GLD Australia requests that its members **also become and remain financial members of a gifted association or a learning disabilities association**, as they wish. This is run on an honour-system, but we're confident that most GLD Australia members will comply with this request and will join whatever existing association they feel best suits their own needs.

Gifted and learning disabilities associations represent, support and advocate for the many thousands of gifted people and people with learning disability throughout Australia. Many of these vulnerable learners have chronic literacy problems and some are functionally illiterate. The implications are enormous – for academic and employment success, mental health, self-efficacy, community involvement and socio-economic status.

GLD children are sometimes identified first as being 'lazy' or 'unmotivated'. Some are first noticed because they present with 'behaviour problems'. Gifted and learning disabilities associations support such learners by promoting best-practice teaching, evidence-based intervention, quality teacher training and ongoing academic research within the areas of giftedness, learning disability and other learning challenges.

## ***These associations need our support.***

GLD Australia members need not join a gifted or learning disabilities association in their own State, and are of course free to choose whichever one most appeals to them. Other than the AAEGT, GLD Australia has no special relationship with any gifted association or with any learning disabilities association, but GLD Australia can refer you to such an association which you may wish to join and support. Send an email to: [gld.australia@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gld.australia@yahoo.com.au)