



TESTIMONIALS – SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

Past President Principal's Association of Specialist Schools (Victoria), Accredited School Reviewer, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development: David Giddings

I am pleased to be able to endorse the 'STAR Special' online electronic reporting and goal setting program from ABI Systems Pty Ltd. This package has been developed with the assistance of teachers and special educators seeking to bring consistency and professionalism to their Individual Education Plans and reports to parents. A major advantage is the time saved when data banks of sequential school goals are used as part of the program.

In my visits to special schools as a school reviewer I will often suggest improvements in how schools develop their IEPs, hold information about the child and report to parents. The STAR package seems well suited to this purpose.

I am also impressed by the capacity of STAR to listen to suggestions and work with schools to suit their particular needs. I am sure that STAR will constantly improve and adapt to new requirements. I wish them well in their endeavours.

Glenroy Specialist School: Assistant Principal, Jane Fincham (August 2012)

Glenroy Specialist School changed to STAR Reporting approximately 18 months ago and we haven't looked back. The teachers found the program easy to learn and were able to get into it in stages so learnt new steps as needed. It only took a one hour PD to get everyone up and running. I didn't have a single negative comment about learning the new system. The output has been tailored to meet our requirements which meant that we were able to keep all the preferred features of our previous reporting and add new ones.

The teachers love being able to work from home on one version instead of having multiple versions on USB keys and accidentally overwriting material. The program itself is totally stable so no one's work is ever 'lost'.

We have it set up so that class teachers, specialists and therapists have the same access and can check for consistency in their reporting.

As Administrator, I appreciate the ability to see how teachers are progressing with their reporting and intervene promptly if they are struggling.

From the beginning, the level of support has been outstanding. Philip is a wonderful help and is always only a phone call away. He not only fixes any of our mistakes promptly, but also emails instructions so that I can do this myself another time.

I believe every member of our staff would endorse STAR Reporting.

Heatherwood School: Deputy Principal, Lesley Foster

We have been working with Philip for just over two years to develop an individual goal based reporting and assessment program for a Special School catering for all secondary students and VELS and VCAL. We have appreciated the ready backup and specific help and support for our school's needs. The program provides ready access for all staff and ultimately our parents. The program has enabled staff to reduce the amount of time spent on report writing while providing a highly informative and professional report. As part of the design committee, we have ensured that this program will meet the needs of all students with disabilities and special needs.

Ashwood School: Jacki Getreu and Dianne Wegener

Teachers have undertaken the challenge of a web-based reporting program in 2008. They were introduced to STAR reporting this year and have recorded their students' Individual Education Programs. Considering the new technology, there has been a minimum of stress for all teachers involved. Our progress was assisted by having the Ashwood goal database available through the program. The result is a report format that reflects the needs of our students, the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and provides a consistent approach in the technical details of presentation. Philip from ABI has been an excellent resource always willing to listen to our ideas, convert them into practical applications on the program, and provide support quickly.

Mildura Specialist School: Assistant Principal, Penny Hale

We have just started using the STAR program to write our IEPs and reports. The support from ABI has been exceptional; we have had quick and helpful answers to our queries by email and over the phone as well as personal visits and we are 6 hours from Melbourne. The teachers were able to start using the program straight away after a basic demonstration. As an administrator, it has been very useful to track the progress so feedback can be given straight away.