

Robert, 62 years old from Perthshire, Scotland

How does dyspraxia affect you?

My writing and spelling is poor as is my co-ordination. I need to use assistive software to complete forms such as this. I am clumsy and suffer from low self-esteem



When were you diagnosed?

In 2007 my dysgraphia and dyslexia were diagnosed; my dyspraxia has only been hinted at never diagnosed.

What is your experience of seeking a diagnosis as an adult?

Almost impossible I have no idea where to start no one seems to want to know it is as if people think you have managed this far so why bother now

What does having a diagnosis mean to you?

I strongly suspect dyspraxia has ran through my family for years. My father grandfather and great grandfather all suffered many of the traits that I have. More importantly my daughter shows probable signs of the condition. I believe it is time that this condition is properly recognised.

Have you received any support? (if yes, please include brief details)

NO

What are the most difficult aspects of living with dyspraxia?

My clumsiness, low self-esteem and poor hand eye co-ordination and my inability to carry out administrative tasks, worst of all my short-term memory which affects my ability to remember people's names, where I have left things or what I have read on a previous page of a book.

How would you like to see things change for adults with dyspraxia?

In this age of technology there are several things available to help with the things I mentioned above, early diagnoses would help sufferers immensely more importantly raising awareness would prevent people like myself from being labelled as stupid.

Please add any additional information you feel would be relevant to our campaign here

Administrative and educational things have always been a struggle for me, but I have still

managed to achieve things by using my talents wisely. Perhaps it is part of the condition I do not know but I have a way with words, I was one of four winners in the BBC hymn writer of the year competition back in 2004. In 2010 I was ordained as an auxiliary minister of the Church of Scotland, it was during the studying for this ministry that I was diagnosed with dysgraphia and dyslexia. It was at that point I learnt the value of assistive software. Often, I feel I miss out on help both physically and financially because I cannot fill in the required forms, I have only managed to complete this form because I had it converted from PDF to a Word document which allowed me to use my assistive software, alas using converters like this is costly.