



**27 & 28 SEPTEMBER 2014**  
**The Langham Hotel – Symonds St, Auckland, New Zealand**

Be sure to keep this weekend free for our exciting national conference. This year the special focus is visualisation and working memory – critical to children and adults with specific learning disabilities. The conference will be a unique opportunity to meet and hear from a range of inspirational experts in the field:

**Keynote speaker Nanci Bell** is a renowned American researcher, practitioner, author, co-founder and director of Lindamood Bell Learning Processes – a world leader in literacy research and remediation. As a former classroom teacher, Nanci has practical experience combined with a wealth of research based knowledge. She's interested in finding solutions and believes visualisation is a vital factor in language comprehension and critical thinking. She has applied her knowledge of visual imaging to concept development in Numeracy.

**Mimma Mason** blends education and cognitive science to raise awareness of working memory issues and their relationship to learning. She works with clinicians, educators, coaches and workplace professionals to raise awareness of brain health. Mimma is the Cogmed Manager for Pearson Clinical and Talent Assessment in Australia and New Zealand and a regular speaker on the fascinating topic of neuroplasticity. Her presentations will focus on understanding working memory and its implications for learning plus what is going on in the brain and body when someone is learning successfully.

**Sandy Russo** is a registered teacher and the Acting Director for SPELD South Australia. She is an educational and software consultant, specialising in problem solving the needs of students with Specific Learning Disabilities. Sandy will be giving insights into strategies, good teaching practices and assistive technologies that can help students with SLDs and working memory problems to succeed independently in the classroom, university or workplace.

**Angus Hikairo MacFarlane:** has a background in teaching and cultural psychology and is currently Professor of Maori Research at the University of Canterbury. Angus is a highly respected researcher, author and speaker, renowned for promoting outcomes of Maori students. He is also recognised internationally for his contributions to indigenous research and practise. Angus's presentation will focus on research and practise that can help awaken the greatest potential in students and teachers.

**Registration details and a timetable will be posted on the SPELD NZ website**

[www.speld.org.nz](http://www.speld.org.nz)

