

THE LDC E-UPDATE

REGIONAL, RURAL & REMOTE SCHOOLS

Hello and welcome to
OUR AUGUST E-UPDATE

THE LATEST ON PATHOLOGICAL DEMAND AVOIDANCE (PDA)

SIGNS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PDA

Common behaviours associated with PDA include:

- Persistent refusal of everyday demands or instructions
- School refusal or withdrawal
- Controlling behaviours around food, routines, noise, and visitors
- Aggression or meltdowns in response to demands

Significant anxiety masked by superficial sociability in public or structured environments.

WHY RECOGNISING PDA MATTERS

Understanding PDA has significant implications for professionals in education, mental health, child protection, and justice systems. Misunderstanding and misdiagnosis can lead to inappropriate interventions, family breakdown, and emotional harm.

Early identification of PDA and tailored support plans significantly improve outcomes. Conversely, lack of awareness perpetuates cycles of blame and ineffective interventions.

SCHOOL

Schools are frequent pressure points for PDAers. High demands, inflexible routines, and traditional behaviour management techniques often escalate PDA behaviours rather than mitigate them.

- Effective educational approaches for students with PDA include:
- Reducing demands and expectations
- Offering autonomy and collaborative negotiation
- Avoiding confrontational tones or rigid disciplinary approaches
- Building emotional safety through trusted relationships

Yet these strategies often appear counterintuitive and can meet with resistance within mainstream educational environments who haven't yet embarked on their own journey to understand and accommodate PDAers.

WRITTEN BY [AUTISM AWARENESS AUSTRALIA](#)

Excerpt from LDC Term 2, 2025 Member Newsletter.



**LDC 2025
MEMBERSHIP**

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

1 YEAR \$50 | 3 YEARS \$135

SCHOOL/ORGANISATION

1 YEAR \$75 | 3 YEARS \$200

**BECOME A
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phone call away.*

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HELPFUL LINKS

ARTICLES

Children with autism to be diverted off NDIS under \$2bn program announced by Albanese government
The Guardian

[Read More](#)

BOOKS

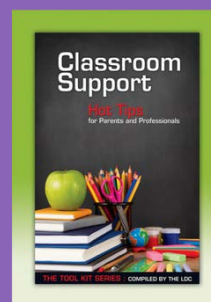
All Brains Are Different
Yellow ladybug

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NOT JUST 'CHALLENGING': UNDERSTANDING PDA AND NEURODIVERSITY-AFFIRMING SUPPORT THAT ACTUALLY HELPS

PRESENTED BY

JESS DOLEV

Founder of Perfectly Imperfect

REGISTER
NOW



**TUESDAY 16th, SEPTEMBER
2025 | 7.30PM – 8.15PM | ONLINE**

Ever feel like the usual strategies just don't work, no matter how many times you try sticker charts, consequences, or "being consistent"? You're not imagining it. When it comes to **Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)** and other complex neurodivergent profiles, traditional behaviour approaches often do more harm than good.

In this eye-opening talk, neurodivergent therapist, advocate, and director of Perfectly Imperfect, Jess Dolev, will walk you through:

- What PDA really is — beyond the myths
- Why compliance-based strategies backfire
- How to shift from control to connection
- Simple, actionable tools you can use today to support regulation, autonomy, and safety

Whether you're a parent, educator, therapist, or medical professional, this session will give you the insight, language, and strategies to radically rethink how you show up for the young people in your life — especially when nothing else seems to be working.

Because they're not "too hard." We're just not taught how to support them properly — until now.

REGISTER NOW

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2025 FOR THE LIVE EVENT

COST

- **\$20** LDC Member
- **\$30** Non LDC Member
- **JOIN LIVE OR ON DEMAND**

PAYMENT DETAILS

- VISIT WWW.LDC.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFO
- PAY VIA PAYPAL ON THE WEBSITE
- CALL THE OFFICE TO PAY OVER THE PHONE USING A CREDIT CARD
- DIRECT DEPOSIT INTO LDC ACCOUNT: ST GEORGE BANK:
- BSB: 112 879, A/C: 044 050 245
- PLEASE WRITE YOUR SURNAME AS THE REFERENCE TO VERIFY PAYMENT.

EFFECTIVE TIER 2 READING INTERVENTION IN PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTED BY

**PROFESSOR
SASKIA KOHNEN**

DIRECTOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN LITERACY CLINIC
AT ACU. DIPLOM PATHOLINGUIST, PHD

**TUESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER
2025 | 10am – 12pm**



In this presentation, Professor Kohnen will review current best practice guidelines for interventions aimed to improve foundational literacy skills in primary and high school students. The presentation will focus on published guidelines, discuss long term outcomes and some of the implementation hurdles that can make it difficult for schools to facilitate Tier 2 interventions.

Professor Saskia Kohnen is the inaugural Director of the Australian Literacy Clinic at ACU where she works with an interdisciplinary team of (neuro)psychologists, speech-language pathologists and teachers. The clinic conducts literacy assessments and interventions and provides input into ACU's teacher training programs and professional development. Saskia's current research interests include the assessment of the underlying causes of reading and spelling difficulties in children; conducting intervention trials for children and adults with developmental and acquired reading and spelling difficulties; and the investigation of reading acquisition in typically developing children.

REGISTER NOW: www ldc org au

WATCH LIVE OR ON DEMAND

COST

- **\$50** LDC Member
- **\$100** Non LDC Member
- **\$450** Seminar School Link (Member)

PAYMENT DETAILS

PAYMENT DUE BY 19TH SEPTEMBER

- Paypal | PCard | Credit Card Accepted
- Direct Deposit: St George bank,
- **BSB: 112 879, A/C: 044 050 245**
- Please insert your surname as the reference to verify payment.

*(Please note - EDConnect payments accepted late)
2 registrants at member rates per individual M'ship
(Member + Guest). Each staff Member at member rates
per school/Org M'ship