Benchmarking Students with Special Needs
An online adventure
Keith Wilson   Vasey Corporation Pty Ltd
vaseycorp@westnet.com.au

Abstract
Middle school students at the Bundaberg Special School are delivered a modified mainstream literacy and numeracy program. These modifications include capability appropriate content, a variety of delivery methods and strategies to manage challenging behaviours. Opportunities to use computer technology to augment these changes, both software and hardware, continue to be explored and implemented. This workshop will introduce participants to an online benchmarking site being developed for students with learning differences. The site is being purpose built for the Bundaberg Special School and draws on a generic benchmark site managed by the author and used by over 100 schools across Australia. The site, at present in its early stages, resides on the author's website but will eventually be transferred to the Bundaberg Special School website. The workshop will be conducted in a computer laboratory with access to the internet. No special software is needed apart from a current browser. Internet use will involve accessing and using the sites outlined in the proposal.

Objectives
Delegates will adopt the role of user and navigate the sites with minimum prompting. They will then reflect on the experience via an online feedback form which will be used by the author and special school colleagues to consider. No previous computer experience is necessary apart from the ability to log on to the internet.

Content
The workshop will run for 60 minutes. After logging on to the internet, delegates will access the sites with registration numbers. A tour of the generic site (http://vaseycorp.com/benchmarks) will be followed by an exploration of the special site (http://vaseycorp.com/special) followed by the completion of the evaluation page. If time permits separate user accounts will be created for those wishing to use the sites at a later date.

Instructor qualifications and experience
Keith Wilson is the Director of Vasey Corporation P/L and Service-Learning Australia. He teaches 4 days per week at the Bundaberg Special School. Keith has been involved in information technology for 30 years working as an Industrial Products Systems Analyst, Business College IT Lecturer and Secondary School Maths and IT Teacher. He manages two free resource websites (http://vaseycorp.com and http://service-learning.com.au). Keith has a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diploma in Education from the University of Canberra and a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Sydney. He is hoping to resurrect a stalled EdD researching the impact on students and their stakeholders of the special benchmark site.