

Disability Standards for Education 2020 Review



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

The Disability Standards for Education 2005

What we learned

Easy Read summary



How to use this summary



The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department) wrote this summary. When you see the words 'we' or 'us', it means the department.



We wrote this summary in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We have written some words in **bold**.
This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.
There is a list of these words on page 22.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website at www.dese.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005/2020-review-disability-standards-education-2005



You can ask for help to read this summary.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this summary?

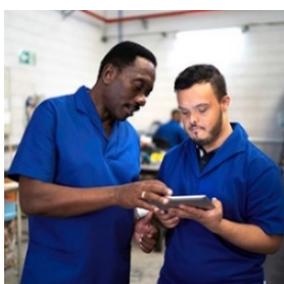
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About the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*

The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* make sure students with disability can take part in:



- education



- training.



We also call them the Standards.



The Standards make sure **education providers** follow the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the Act).



Education providers are organisations that provide education, like a school or university.



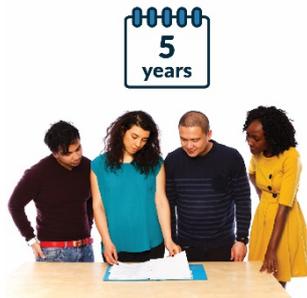
The Act says it's against the law for someone to treat you badly because you are different.

All education providers need to follow the Standards. This includes:



- preschools, including kindergartens
- schools
- universities
- TAFE providers
- Vocational Education and Training providers.

Why we reviewed the Standards



The law says we must look closely at the Standards every 5 years.

We call this a **review**.

We review the Standards so we can:



- check if they are working well

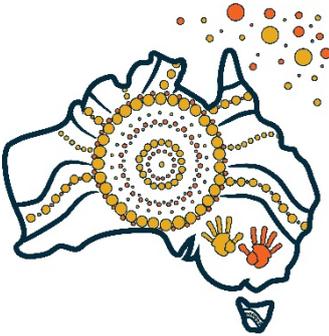


- find ways to make them better.

We talked to:



- students with disability



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families



- parents and carers



- education providers



- **advocates.**

An advocate is someone who can:



- support you
- speak up for you if you can't speak up for yourself
- give you information and advice.



When we say people, we mean all of these groups.

4



People told us about 4 areas that need to change.



We talk about these 4 areas on the following pages.

More support for students with disability and their families

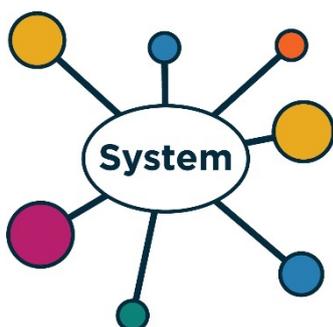


People said education providers had more power than them.



People said they had to find out:

- what laws can help them
- how the education **system** works.



Systems are things that:

- connect with each other
- work together.



People said they shouldn't always have to tell education providers what they need.



Education providers should also find out how to make sure students with disability can take part in learning.

Information for students with disability and their families



We will work with people with disability to make information about the:

- Standards
- **rights** of students with disability.



Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



We will give this information to students and their families at important points in their life.

What education providers must do



We will change the Standards so they explain how education providers should talk to:

- students with disability
- their families.

This will help education providers talk about:



- what support they can provide



- how to fix something that has gone wrong.



The Standards will also explain how education providers should handle **complaints**.

A complaint is when you tell someone about:



- something that has gone wrong
- a problem you want fixed.

Sharing information when students change schools

We will find better ways to share information about students who:



- move from one school to another
- move into training
- start higher education, such as university.

Helping education providers understand what they must do



We were told that many people who work at education providers don't understand the Standards.

They don't always:



- know what they must do



- have the information they need.

Students with disability told us it's better when the people who work at education providers know and understand:



- the Standards



- how to follow the Standards.

More information for education providers



We will make information about the Standards that explains what education providers must do.



We will use good examples of how to support students with disability.

More training for school teachers and leaders

We will ask governments to make sure school teachers and leaders get the right training about:



- the Standards



- how to support students with disability.

Include the Standards in higher education



We will ask higher education providers to make sure the Standards are part of how they do things.

How to make sure education providers follow the Standards



People said they want to know how education providers follow the Standards.



People also want to know how governments make sure this happens.

Matching the Standards



We will work with governments to make sure rules for education providers follow what the Standards say.

Vocational education and training for students with disability



Vocational education and training (VET) is a type of education after school.



VET includes:

- TAFE
- **apprenticeships** – when you learn how to do a job at work.



We will work with governments to make VET better for students with disability.

More information about schools



We will ask people in charge of schools to put information on their websites for students with disability and their families.



The information will explain what services and supports the school has for students with disability.

Collecting information about school students with disability



We will work with governments to make some new rules for education providers.

These rules will be about how education providers should:



- collect information about how school students with disability take part in education



- share this information with the community.

Find out how well the Standards are followed



We will ask governments to find out how well education providers follow the Standards.

The Standards for early childhood education and care



Early childhood education and care helps children learn, grow and play:

- in a safe place
- with other children.



Early childhood education and care is provided through:

- preschools, including kindergartens
- child care services.



At the moment, the Standards cover preschools, including kindergartens.



But they don't include child care services.



Child care services still need to follow the Act.



People said early childhood education and care providers need to better understand how to follow the Act.



Parents and families told us they need better information about the Act.

Information for parents and carers



We will make more information for:

- parents
- carers.



The information will be about the rights of children with disability in early childhood education and care.

Information for early childhood education and care providers



We will work with governments to provide information for early childhood education and care providers.



We will make sure early childhood education and care providers understand how to follow the Act.

Matching the Act



We will work with governments to make sure rules for early childhood education and care providers follow what the Act says.

Add early childhood education and care to the Standards



We will change the Standards to include early childhood education and care.



We will talk with early childhood education and care providers about the changes.

How we will make the changes



The Australian Government will make some changes on its own.



But it will work with state and territory governments too.

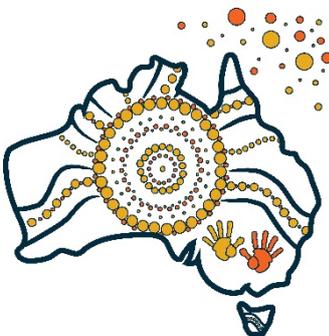
It will also work with:



- people with disability and their families



- education providers



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



We will let the community know how things are going.



You can find out more information on our website at www.dese.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005/2020-review-disability-standards-education-2005.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

Advocate



An advocate is someone who can:

- support you
- speak up for you if you can't speak up for yourself
- give you information and advice.



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are when you learn how to do a job at a workplace.



Complaint

A complaint is when you tell someone about:

- something that has gone wrong
- a problem you want fixed.



Early childhood education and care

Early childhood education and care helps children learn, grow and play:

- in a safe place
- with other children.



Education providers

Education providers are organisations that provide education, like a school or university.



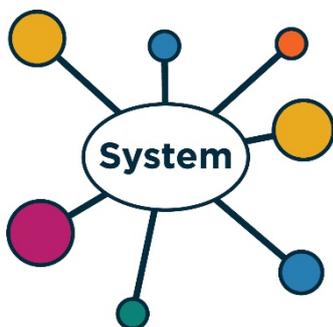
Review

When we review something, we look at it closely to see how well it has been going.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



System

Systems are things that:

- connect with each other
- work together.



Vocational education and training (VET)

VET is a type of education after school.

It includes:

- TAFE
- apprenticeships.



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