



## Higher Education Support – amendments

### Support for students with disability

An additional \$4.3 million per annum (indexed) will be invested in the Higher Education Disability Support Program to engage and support more students with disability to access, participate and succeed in higher education.

#### Why is this important?

The Australian Government is committed to driving real and measurable improvements in higher education for students from underrepresented backgrounds, including students with disability.

Students with disability are the fastest growing equity cohort in higher education, with a 44 per cent increase in enrolments between 2014 and 2019.

However, funding to support students with disability to engage and succeed has not kept pace. Students with disability remain underrepresented overall and have lower rates of retention and completion.

The release of the 2020 Review of the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* confirmed that students with disability continue to face systemic barriers to participating and succeeding in higher education.

#### Who will benefit?

Increasing the funding available each year for the Higher Education Disability Support Program will enable more students with disability to access, participate and succeed in university studies.

The funding provided through the program will encourage universities to invest more in assistive technologies, staff training and course modifications to better support students with disability.

An increasingly diverse cohort of students with disability, including those with mental health and psychosocial disability, will benefit from increased and higher quality support to access, participate and complete university.

#### How much will it cost?

The Government will invest an additional \$4.3 million per annum (indexed) in the Higher Education Disability Support Program, providing an additional \$17.7 million over four years.