



Australian Government  
Department of Education

# Changes to the law about education and disability

## What we heard from the community

Easy Read version

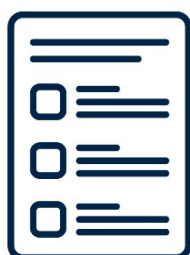


## How to use this report



We are the Australian Government Department of Education.

We wrote this report.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page **17**.



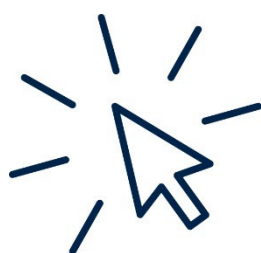
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this report
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another report.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other report on our website.

**<https://www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005/consultations/disability-consultation-ecec>**

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## What we want to change



We want to change a law called the Disability Standards for Education 2005.



This law explains how education must be **inclusive** for children with disability.



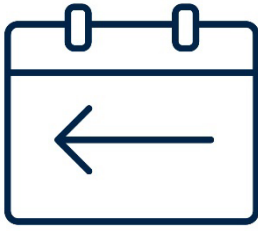
When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



We want to change this law so that **early education and care services** know how to be inclusive for children with disability.

Early education and care services support children:



- before they start school

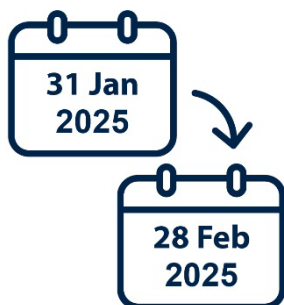


- outside of school hours.

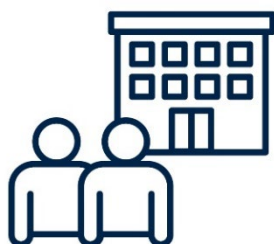
## Who we heard from



We asked the community what they thought about changes we want to make to the law.



We asked the community what they thought between 31 January and 28 February 2025.



We heard from **146** people and organisations.

This included:



- people with disability



- parents and carers of children with disability.

This also included:



- state and territory governments



- early education and care providers.

We also heard from:



- First Nations communities

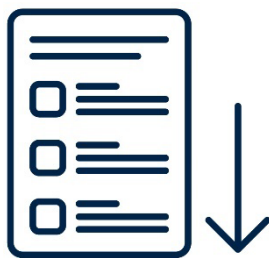


- organisations that support people with disability



- experts in the law.

## What we learned



We explain what we learned from the community on the following pages.

## Which services must follow the law



Most people in the community said the changes will make it clearer which types of early education and care services must follow the law.



They said the changes will mean that early education and care services know how to:

- be inclusive
- meet the needs of children with disability.



The community also said there were other types of early education and care services we could include in changes to the law.



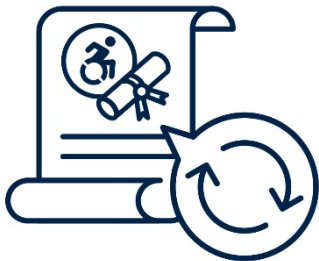
## Other changes the community wanted



The community shared other ideas about how we could change the law.



The community said the law should help people know which early education and care services must follow the law.



The community also said changing some words in the law would make it clearer.



They said the law could include a list of different types of early education and care services that people use often.

## What else we should think about



The community shared other ideas about what we should think about before we change the law.



Some people in the community said we don't need to change the law.



They said this is because the Disability Discrimination Act already protects children with disability from **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when someone is treated unfairly because of something about them they can't change.



Some people said changes to the law shouldn't happen unless early education and care services can get more money from the government.



Some people also thought the changes might make it harder for early education and care services to provide support.

## How to support changes to the law

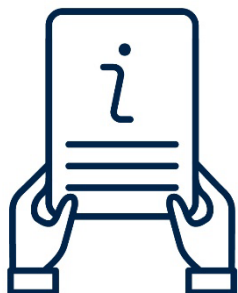


The community shared ideas about how we could support changes to the law.



This includes ways to support early education and care services with the changes.

## Information for services

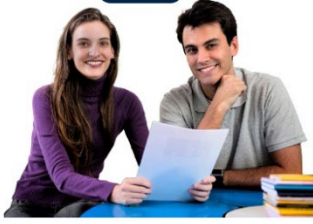


The community said early education and care services should get information to understand changes to the law.



The community said this information should be easy to:

- find and use
- understand.



Services should get information to help them understand:

- what they need to do
- how to do it.



For example, early education and care services need more information to understand **reasonable adjustments**.



Reasonable adjustments are changes to a service so that people with disability can use it.



Early education and care services also need more information to understand **unjustifiable hardship**.



Unjustifiable hardship is when it's too hard for a service to make changes for people with disability.

For example, because the changes would cost the service too much money.

## Costs for services



The community said we need to think about what changes to the law will cost early education and care services.



Services might need to spend money to hire staff that understand how to support the needs of children with disability.



Services might also need to spend money to change buildings so that everyone can move around easily.

## Reporting for services



The community said we should collect **data** to check how well changes to the law are working.

Data includes facts, information and records.



This data should include reports from early education and care services that show how they are following the law.



This data should also include results from **audits**.

During an audit, we check that a service is:

- following the rules
- doing things properly.

## What we will do next



We will use the ideas we heard from the community to finish making changes to the law.



We will share final changes to the law with the Australian Government.



We will make sure early education and care service know:

- how the law will change
- when the law will change.



Early education and care services must keep following other laws that protect children with disability from discrimination.



Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas with us.



## Word list

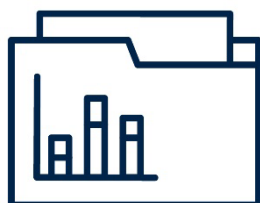
This list explains what the **bold** words in this report mean.



### **Audit**

During an audit, we check that a service is:

- following the rules
- doing things properly.



### **Data**

Data includes facts, information and records.



### **Discrimination**

Discrimination is when someone is treated unfairly because of something about them they can't change.

### **Early education and care services**

Early education and care services support children:

- before they start school
- outside of school hours.





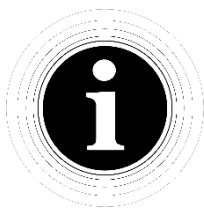
### **Reasonable adjustments**

Reasonable adjustments are changes to a service so that people with disability can use it.



### **Unjustifiable hardship**

Unjustifiable hardship is when it's too hard or expensive for an organisation to change a service so that people with disability can use it.



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