

Disability Standards for Education 2020 Review



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

How to have your say on the Disability Standards for Education 2005

An Easy Read guide



How to use this guide



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



We have written this guide 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 20.



This Easy Read guide 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.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au



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

What's in this document?

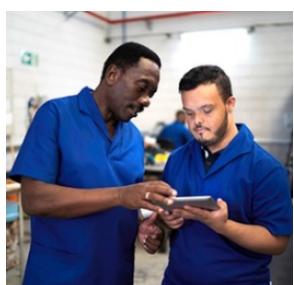
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What are the Disability Standards for Education?

The Disability Standards for Education help 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).



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 are we reviewing the Standards?



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

We call this a review.

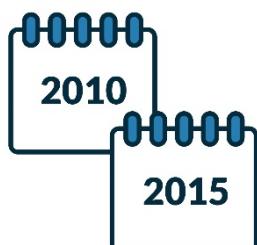
We review the Standards so we can:



- check if they are working well



- find ways to make them better.



We reviewed the Standards in 2010 and 2015.



In these reviews, people told us how we could make the Standards better.

This included making sure:



- more people know about the Standards



- the Standards are easy to understand



- education providers follow the rules in the Standards



- it's easy to make a **complaint**.



A complaint is when you tell someone about:

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



In this review, we'll look at these things again to see if they got better in the past 5 years.



We'll also look at new ways we can make the Standards better.

What do we want to find out?



We want to hear from people with disability about how well they think the Standards work.



We want to know if the Standards help students with disability take part in education and training.

We really want to hear from:



- young people with disability



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with disability



- their families and carers.

We will also talk to:



- education providers



- teachers



- **advocates.**



Advocates are people who speak up for people with disability. They can:

- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.

Questions to think about



We want to know what taking part in education was like for you.



We want to know what makes it hard for people with disability to take part in education.



We want to know what you think about what is covered in the Standards.



We want to know how to make the Standards better.



We have some questions for you to think about on the following pages.

What has taking part in education been like for you?



What happened when you tried to **enrol** with an education provider?

When you enrol, you sign up to go to a school or take part in classes.



Do education providers know how to include students with disability?



Did you get the support you need to take part in education?



Do you think education providers do enough to stop students with disability being treated badly or made to feel bad?



Have you been treated badly or made to feel bad by your school or in class?



How did your education provider try to fix the problem?



Have you made a complaint about an education provider?

What other things have affected your education?



Other things can affect people with disability when taking part in education, such as your:

- sexuality – who you are attracted to
- the language you speak at home
- **culture.**

Your culture is:



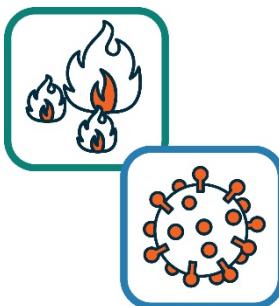
- your way of life
- the way you think or act because of the way you grew up.



Are there other things that have affected your education?



Has your culture or the language you speak made it harder to take part in education?



Has a big event like bushfires or coronavirus (COVID-19) made it hard to take part in education?

What do you think about the Standards?



Do you know about the Standards?



How did you find out about the Standards?



Do you know about your **rights** to take part in education?



Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



Do you think the Standards help students with disability take part in education?



Do the Standards do enough to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with disability take part in education?

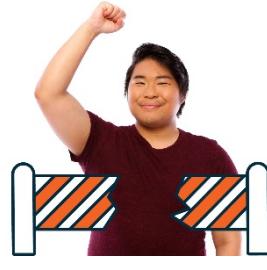
How can we make the Standards better?



Do students with disability who want to take part in education still face **barriers**?



Barriers are things that get in the way of being able to do or have something.



How could we take these barriers away?



How can we make the Standards easier to understand?

Do you need more information to help you understand the Standards?



How can we help more people find out about the Standards?



How could the Standards better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with disability?

How can you have your say?



You can have your say in different ways.



You can answer our questions online at
www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au



You can also answer the questions:

- in writing
- as a video
- as an audio recording.



You can submit these online at
www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au



Or by emailing it to engage@thesocialdeck.com

Other ways to get involved



You can sign up to take part in events to have your say at the [Disability Standards Review website](#).



You can take part in a **webinar**.

A webinar is a presentation or workshop done online using video.



You can join a **focus group**.

A focus group is when a group of people are asked questions about their experiences and what they think.



You can take part in an **interview**.

An interview is when someone asks you questions to find out about your experiences and what you think.



All of the ways you can take part will be **accessible**.



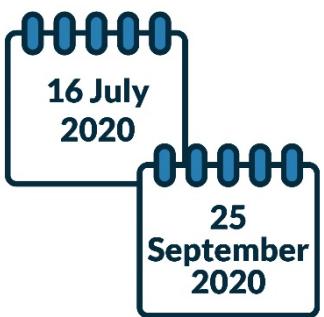
When something is accessible, everyone can use it.



If you want to take part, we will send you more information before our meeting.



This means you have time to think about the questions we want to ask you.



Our review:

- starts on 16 July 2020
- ends on 25 September 2020.

Word list



Accessible

When something is accessible, everyone can use it.



Advocates

Advocates are people who speak up for people with disability. They can:

- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



Barriers

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Complaint

A complaint is when you tell someone about:

- something that has gone wrong
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Culture

Your culture is:

- your way of life
- the way you think or act because of the way you grew up.



Enrol

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Focus group

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Interview

An interview is when someone asks you questions to find out about your experiences and what you think.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



Webinar

A webinar is a presentation or workshop done online using video.

Contact us

You can send us an email to find out more about:



- our review
- this discussion paper.



DisabilityStrategy@dese.gov.au



You can phone or send an email to The Social Deck to find out more how you can take part in the review.



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engage@thesocialdeck.com



www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au



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