2020 Review of the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*

Community Consultation Questionnaire

### 

### **Introduction**

The Australian Government is conducting consultations for the 2020 Review of the *Disability Standard for Education 2005* (the Standards).

The Standards came into effect on 18 August 2005 and the law says the Standards need to be reviewed every 5 years.

The Standards seek to ensure that students with disability can **access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability**. They are intended to **make it easier to understand the rights and obligations** in relation to education under the *Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992*.

The Australian community is invited to participate in consultations for the 2020 Review of the Standards. Consultations are open from 16 July 2020.

The Review is asking whether the Standards are doing their job and, if not, how they could be improved.

This questionnaire is one of the ways we are seeking feedback from people. You can also make a written, audio or video submission, or express your interest to join an online focus group or online discussion forum. You can find out more about the review and other ways to have your say at the Consultation Hub.

While completing this questionnaire you may want to refer to the discussion paper. The discussion paper provides details of the Standards, a brief summary of findings from past reviews of the Standards, and some questions you may want to consider when describing your experiences of access and participation in education as a person with disability or on behalf of a person with disability. There is also an Easy Read version of the discussion paper.

You can access the Standards here.

**About the questionnaire**

The questionnaire has five sections covering:

* Your interest in the Standards
* Your experiences of people with disability accessing and participating in education and training
* Awareness of the Standards
* Your feedback on how the Standards could be improved
* Demographics – additional information about you (if you wish to provide this)

**It will take approximately 20-40 minutes to complete, depending on the length of your written responses. The questionnaire will be open until 11.59pm AEST, 25 September 2020.**

**Save and come back**

If you wish, you can complete the questionnaire in stages. Your progress through the questionnaire is automatically saved when you navigate to the next page. You can return to the questionnaire as long as you use the same computer and the same web browser and have not cleared your browser cookies. To re-access the questionnaire, just click on the same link that you used initially. You cannot alter your responses once you have completed the questionnaire.

This questionnaire is being conducted in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

**Support to help you complete the questionnaire**

If you need help to complete this questionnaire, please email [engage@thesocialdeck.com](mailto:engage@thesocialdeck.com) or   
phone 0491 617 118.

If you do not want to answer a question, you can select the ‘Prefer not to say’ response option.

If any of the questions or content in this questionnaire cause you distress, you can end the questionnaire at any time. If you or someone you know is in crisis or feeling distressed and needs support, call [**Lifeline**](https://www.lifeline.org.au/) on **13 11 14** or [**Beyond Blue**](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/) on **1300 224 636**.

**How will responses be used?**

All responses to the questionnaire are confidential and anonymous.

Your answers will be consolidated and drawn upon to make recommendations on how the Standards can be improved. No personal or identifying information, such as your name, is shared in this report.

We will ask if you would like what you have written to be included in the report. If you say yes, we will make sure you can’t be identified (that nobody can tell who you are from what’s written) if any of that information is included.

**Thank you for sharing your thoughts.**

**Q1.**

**Consent to participate in this questionnaire.**

By participating in this questionnaire, you indicate that:

* You have read the above information;
* Your participation in this questionnaire is voluntary;
* You consent to your comments or responses being anonymously included in public reports; and
* You are at least 14 years of age.

Please note that young people aged 14-17 years will require the consent of a parent or guardian to complete this questionnaire.  You will be prompted for their signature on the next page of the questionnaire.

Q. Do you wish to continue with this questionnaire?

1. Yes
2. No (if you select no, you will be exited from the questionnaire)

**Q2.**

Q. So that we know if you require the consent of a parent or guardian to complete this questionnaire, can you please tell us which of the following age categories you belong to.

1. 14-17 years
2. 18+ years (skip to Q4)

**Q3. (answer if Q2 = 14-17 years)**

Q. Please ask your parent or guardian to provide their consent by writing their signature in the space provided below.

If you are using a computer to complete the questionnaire, they can use the mouse to write their signature. If you are using a tablet or mobile phone to complete the questionnaire, they can write their signature using their finger.

|  |
| --- |
| PLEASE SIGN HERE |

### **Section 1: Your interest in the *Disability Standards for Education 2005***

### **Q4.**

Q. Before we get started, can you please tell us which one of the following statements best describes your interest in the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | I’m a person with disability | Ο |
| 2 | I’m a parent / guardian or other family member of a person with disability | Ο |
| 3 | I’m a carer of a person with disability | Ο |
| 4 | I’m a support worker / work directly with people with disability | Ο |
| 5 | I’m a teacher / educator | Ο |
| 6 | I’m a Principal / head of school / manager of an educational institution | Ο |
| 7 | I’m an education provider, or work in the education sector | Ο |
| 8 | I’m a disability advocate | Ο |
| 9 | I’m a disability service provider or work for a disability organisation | Ο |
| 10 | I employ people with disability | Ο |
| 11 | I’m a researcher or academic | Ο |
| 12 | I’m employed by federal, state or territory, or local government | Ο |
| 13 | Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) | Ο |
| 14 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

### **Q5. (answer if Q4 = 1, 2, or 3)**

Q. How would you describe your disability, or the disability of your family member or the person you care for?

We are asking this question because we want to make sure we collect and understand views that reflect the diversity of disability.

Please select all that apply.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Blind or low vision | □ |
| 2 | Deaf or hard of hearing | □ |
| 3 | Intellectual disability | □ |
| 4 | Learning disability | □ |
| 5 | Neurological disability | □ |
| 6 | Physical disability | □ |
| 7 | Psychosocial disability or mental health condition | □ |
| 8 | Autism | □ |
| 8 | Other (please specify) | □ |
| 9 | Prefer not to say | □ |

**Q6. (answer if Q4 = 1, 2, or 3)**

Q. How old is the person with disability that you are describing when answering this questionnaire?

This may be yourself if you are a person with disability, or it may be a child or adult with disability who is a family member or someone you care for.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 0-5 years | Ο |
| 2 | 6-12 years | Ο |
| 3 | 13-17 years | Ο |
| 4 | 18-24 years | Ο |
| 5 | 25-34 years | Ο |
| 6 | 35-44 years | Ο |
| 7 | 45-54 years | Ο |
| 8 | 55-64 years | Ο |
| 9 | 65-74 years | Ο |
| 10 | 75-84 years | Ο |
| 11 | 85 years or older | Ο |
| 12 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

**Q7. (answer if Q4 = 5, 6 or 7)**

Q. Which of the following education institutions or sectors do you predominantly work in?

Please select all that apply.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Early childhood / child care | Ο |
| 2 | Preschool / Kindergarten | Ο |
| 3 | Primary school (first year of formal schooling to year 6) | Ο |
| 4 | Secondary school (years 7 - 12) | Ο |
| 5 | Technical and Further Education (TAFE) | Ο |
| 6 | Other Vocational Education and Training (VET) | Ο |
| 7 | Higher Education (e.g. Universities) | Ο |
| 8 | Other adult education institution / provider | Ο |
| 9 | Other (please specify) | Ο |
| 10 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

**Q8. (answer if Q4 = 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14)**

Q. Which of the following education institutions or sectors are most relevant to your interest in the Standards?

Please select all that apply.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Early childhood / child care | Ο |
| 2 | Preschool / Kindergarten | Ο |
| 3 | Primary school (first year of formal schooling to year 6) | Ο |
| 4 | Secondary school (years 7 - 12) | Ο |
| 5 | Technical and Further Education (TAFE) | Ο |
| 6 | Other Vocational Education and Training (VET) | Ο |
| 7 | Higher Education (e.g. Universities) | Ο |
| 8 | Other adult education institution / provider | Ο |
| 9 | Other (please specify) | Ο |
| 10 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

### **Q9.**

Q. How familiar were you with the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* before starting this questionnaire?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | I had never heard of the Standards | Ο |
| 2 | I was aware of the Standards, but have never read them | Ο |
| 3 | I was aware of the Standards and am somewhat familiar with the details contained within them | Ο |
| 4 | I was aware of the Standards and am very familiar with the details contained within them | Ο |
| 5 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

**Section 2: Your experiences in people with disability in education and training**

The following questions are about access to, and participation in, education among people with disability.

The questions in this section ask about your experiences of:

* Enrolment of students with disability in education and training
* Participation of students with disability in education and training
* Support for students with disability in education and training
* Harassment and victimisation of students with disability in education and training
* Compliance with the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* by education providers

You may complete all of the questions in this section, or just the questions that are relevant to your experience. If you do not want to answer a question, Click the Next button to skip to the next question.

The answers you give should be from your own perspective as a current or former student with disability, a parent or carer, educator, education provider or other.

### **Q10.**

**Enrolment in education and training**

Q. What has been your experience of people with disability (including yourself) **accessing and enrolling** in education and training, including preschool, kindergarten, school, TAFE, VET, university, and other adult education institutions?

When answering this question, you may want to think about:

* The rights of people with disability when enrolling in education and training.
* The obligations of education providers to people with disability during the enrolment process, including consultations with prospective students and/or their family or carers.
* Whether appropriate and accessible information and resources about the enrolment process and entry requirements are provided to students and their families.

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q11.**

**Participation in education and training among students with disability**

Q. What has been your experience of students with disability (including yourself) **participating** in education and training?

When answering this question, you may want to think about:

* Reasonable adjustments being made to ensure students with disability can participate in education and training. This includes participation in courses and programs, the curriculum, school activities, and the use of facilities.
* Consultations between education providers and students with disability and their family members or carers to make sure students with disability can participate in education and training.

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q12.**

**Support for students with disability**

Q. What has been your experience of students with disability (including yourself) being **supported** in education and training?

When answering this question, you may want to think about:

* Access for students with disability to general support that is also available to students without disability.
* Access to specialised support for students with disability to assist and ensure their participation in education and training activities.
* Awareness of specialised support among education providers.
* Whether education providers adapt to the changing support needs of students over time.
* Consultations between education providers and students with disability and their family members or carers to ensure that students with disability can access the necessary support.

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q13.**

**Harassment and victimisation of students with disability**

Q. What has been your experience of students with disability (including yourself) experiencing **harassment and/or victimisation** in education and training settings?

When answering this question, you may want to think about:

* The nature of harassment or victimisation experienced by students with disability.
* Steps taken by education providers to address harassment or victimisation of students with disability.
* The development and implementation of strategies by education providers to prevent harassment and victimisation of students with disability.
* The response from the education provider to address the issue.
* Training and professional development of education providers to prevent and address harassment and victimisation of students with disability.

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q14.**

**Compliance with the Standards by education providers**

Q. What has been your experience of **compliance** with the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* among education providers?

When answering this question, you may want to think about:

* Whether education providers understand their obligations set out in the Standards and whether these obligations are being met.
* The process for making a complaint and whether there is enough information available about how to make a complaint.
* How complaints were dealt with by education providers.

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section 3: Awareness of the Standards**

### **Q15. (answer if Q4 = 1, 2 or 3)**

Q. Do you feel like you are aware of and understand your / your child’s rights when it comes to being able to access and participate in education and training as they relate to the Standards?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | I have **no** awareness and understanding of the rights set out in the Standards | Ο |
| 2 | I have **low** awareness and understanding of the rights set out in the Standards | Ο |
| 3 | I have **some** awareness and understanding of the rights set out in the Standards | Ο |
| 4 | I have **good** awareness and understanding of the rights set out in the Standards | Ο |
| 5 | I have **excellent** awareness and understanding of the rights set out in the Standards | Ο |
| 6 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

### **Q16.**

Q. Based on your experience, how would you rate the community’s awareness and understanding of the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, including the purpose of the Standards and how they are designed to explain the rights of students?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Very poor | Ο |
| 2 | Poor | Ο |
| 3 | Fair | Ο |
| 4 | Good | Ο |
| 5 | Excellent | Ο |
| 6 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

### **Q17.**

Q. Are there any particular actions that you think could be taken to increase awareness of the Standards and/or to make sure they’re better understood?

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section 4: Improving the Standards**

### **Q18.**

Q. Before we ask for your thoughts on how the Standards might be improved, do you have any feedback or experiences on how the Standards have helped people with disability access and participate in education and training on the same basis as people without disability?

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q19.**

Q. How do you think the Standards could be improved to help overcome other barriers that may exist for some students with disability when accessing and participating in education and training?

For this question, we particularly want to know how the Standards could help to overcome barriers that may exist for the following groups:

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
* People from culturally diverse backgrounds
* People who speak a language other than English at home
* People who live in regional, rural and remote locations
* People from low income households
* People who are LGBTIQA+

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q20.**

Q. How do you think the Standards could be improved to help better respond to situations such as COVID-19 or natural disasters?

When answering this question, you may want to think about:

* Your own experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic or other major events.
* How students with disability can continue to be supported to participate in education and training during these times to the same degree as students without disability.

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q21.**

Q. How do you think the knowledge and capabilities of educators and education providers could be strengthened to ensure they comply with the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*?

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Q22.**

Q. Lastly, are there any other ways you think the Standards could be improved?

Please write your response in the box below. This question is optional. (Character limit = 2000)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section 5: Questions about you**

So that we can better understand the different perspectives we are gaining through this questionnaire, we have a few final questions about you.

**Q23.**

Q. What is your gender?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Male | Ο |
| 2 | Female | Ο |
| 3 | I’d prefer to describe myself (free text) | Ο |
| 4 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

**Q24.**

Q. Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes, Aboriginal | Ο |
| 2 | Yes, Torres Strait Islander | Ο |
| 3 | Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | Ο |
| 4 | No | Ο |
| 5 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

**Q25.**

Q. Are you from a culturally or linguistically diverse background?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes, please specify (optional): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Ο |
| 2 | No | Ο |
| 3 | Prefer not to say | Ο |

**Q26.**

Q. Which state or territory do you live in?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Australian Capital Territory | O |
| 2 | New South Wales | O |
| 3 | Northern Territory | O |
| 4 | Queensland | O |
| 5 | South Australia | O |
| 6 | Tasmania | O |
| 7 | Victoria | O |
| 8 | Western Australia | O |
| 10 | I do not live in Australia | O |
| 11 | Prefer not to say | O |

**Q27. (answer if Q26 = 1-8)**

Q. Which of the following do you live in?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | A city | O |
| 2 | A regional area | O |
| 3 | A rural town | O |
| 4 | A remote area | O |
| 5 | Prefer not to say | O |

**Q28.**

Q. Can we include quotes from your responses in the report summarising the findings from this questionnaire?

If you say yes, we will make sure you cannot be identified (that nobody can tell who you are from what is written).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | Ο |
| 2 | No | Ο |

Thank you for taking the time to share your valuable feedback and experiences.

To stay up to date about this review, visit the Consultation Hub. You can also sign up for regular updates about the review process at this website.