Getting to know you

Collecting information about students with disability

Easy Read version

This information is written in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Some words are written in **bold**. We explain what these words mean.

You can ask for help to read this document. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.
We are changing the way we collect information

At the moment, we are changing the way we collect information about students with disability.

These changes will help us to have a better understanding of what students with disability need.

We are collecting information from all around Australia.

Over the next few months, we will be talking to:

- teachers
- principals
- parents
- students.
We will ask questions about your disability and how it affects your life.

We will use everyone's answers to these questions to work out:

- how many students with disability go to school in Australia
- what is already being done to support students with disability
- what other support students with disability need.

**Students with disability**

In Australia, there's a law that says people with disability must be treated fairly.

This law is called the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. 
Under this law, there are 4 main types of disability:

1. **Physical** – a disability that affects a person's body.

2. **Cognitive** – a disability that affects the way someone thinks.

3. **Social/emotional** – a disability that affects a person's relationships with others. This type of disability may have an impact on the way the person behaves.

4. **Sensory** – a disability that affects the senses, such as sight or hearing.
And, under this law, any student who has one of these disabilities must be supported to go to school.

Most of the time, schools will need to make changes so that they can support students with disability.

These types of changes are called adjustments.

Adjustments might include things like:

- providing school work in an accessible format – such as Braille or audio information
- allowing students with disability more time to finish their work if they need it
• one on one learning support, such as with an aide or other specialist teacher

• assistance to move around school if that's what someone needs.

We think that teachers know their students best.

Teachers can help work out what kind of adjustments each student with disability needs.

When planning adjustments, teachers can work with:

• you
• your family
• doctors or other professionals.
**What sort of information will we collect?**

Every year, we will ask each school about the students with disability that they support.

We will talk to parents, carers and teachers.

We may need to talk to some students, especially students who are over 18 years of age.

This information will be collected in each State and Territory.

We will then put all the information together so that we can understand students with disability all around Australia.
During this process, we will make sure that any information about you is kept private and safe.

If you want to find out more about this project and the information we are collecting, you can talk to your school principal.
Contact us

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