Student support services and allied health professionals

The Department of Education and Training

Easy English
Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

● the word is in blue

● we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book

You can get someone to help you

● read this book

● know what this book is about

● find more information.
About this book

This book is written by the Department of Education and Training.

This book is about student support services.

Student support services are health professionals who work with schools to help

- students
- parents
- principals
- teachers.
Who gives student support services?

Psychologists

A psychologist is a health expert who can help your child

- learn at school

- get along with others

- manage their disability

- manage their feelings.

A psychologist can

- help teachers work well with your child

- write reports about your child to get funding for more supports.

Funding is money to help the school pay for disability supports.
Speech pathologists

A speech pathologist is a health expert who can help your child

- speak

- read

- write

- understand what other people say

- get along with others.

A speech pathologist can write reports about your child to get funding for supports.
**Social workers**

A social worker can help your child

- learn

- manage stress

- manage their feelings.

Social workers can give support to

- your child

- your family

- teachers.

A social worker might work

- only with your child

Or

- with your child in a group.
Other experts

There are other experts

- who are not part of the student support services

- who can still help your child at school.

**Behaviour analysts**

A behaviour analyst has special skills to understand your child’s behaviour.

A behaviour analyst

- can help your child learn

- can help teachers work with your child.
Visiting teachers

A visiting teacher comes to the school to work with your child and your child’s teacher.

A visiting teacher can help a student who has problems with

● vision

● hearing

● movement.

Visiting teachers can

● help teachers work with your child

● make a plan to help your child learn

● write reports to get funding

● help your child with **assistive equipment**.
Assistive equipment helps students do things at school.

For example

- a wheelchair ramp to get into the building
- a screen reader to help children with low vision to hear the text on a computer.

How to get student support services

There are 3 people who might ask for student support services for your child including

- you
- your child’s teacher
- the principal.

You need to say **yes** before your child gets student support services.
When you get support the school will

- ask you what supports your child needs
- read information about your child in reports
- make a plan to help your child in school
- think about other services your child needs
- send a form to student support services to ask for more services.

If you ask for help student support services will say **yes** or **no**.

If student support services say **yes**, you can start student support services for your child.
Student support services may say no because

- other students have waited for help longer
- there may be better ways to help your child.

If student support services say no, the school will help you in other ways.

For example, the school might

- give you more information
- support your child’s teacher to work with your child
- tell you other places to get help.

More information

For more information contact the Department of Education and Training.

Website [www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/regions.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/regions.aspx)