

# 1 WHAT IS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION?

Inclusive education means that all students attend and are welcomed by their neighbourhood schools in age-appropriate, regular classes. Students are supported to learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of the life of the school.

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IS:

- A HUMAN RIGHT
- BEST FOR EVERYONE
- BASED ON EVIDENCE
- SUPPORTED BY LAW.



## INCLUSION IS:

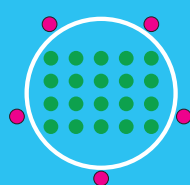
- Students with disability present and fully participating in the same environments as all other students for the same amount of time, including participation in school excursions, assemblies, concerts and other extra-curricular events.
- School communities welcoming all students, supporting them to belong socially and not separating them in the classroom or playground.
- All students learning the same curriculum and lesson material, with appropriate support and adjustments.
- Students with disability present in the same proportions as found in the population. They are in regular classes rather than congregating together in “special” classes or programs.

## INCLUSION IS NOT:

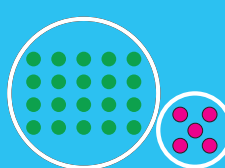
- Students being physically present without the adjustments needed for the student to participate on the same basis as their peers.
- The student's education being delegated to a teacher aide.
- Schools providing an “inclusion program” – particularly if this is inflexible or offers only part-time attendance.
- Students' need to develop friendships and participate fully in the life of the school (outside the classroom) being neglected.
- Schools “allowing” a child to attend without a whole school commitment to inclusive practice.

*Inclusion is distinct from other educational practices such as segregation and integration.*

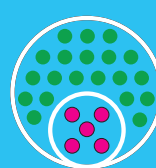
EXCLUSION



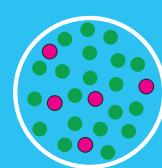
SEGREGATION



INTEGRATION



INCLUSION





## THE DISABILITY STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION (2005)

The Disability Standards for Education (DSE) are Australian law under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992), they clarify the rights of students with disability to engage in education on the same basis as students without disability - with access to the same opportunities and choices in their education as others, including participation in classroom programs, excursions, camps etc.

### THERE ARE 3 KEY OBLIGATIONS:

#### 1. TO CONSULT

*(with the student and parents to understand the student's disability and to work out necessary adjustments)*

#### 2. TO MAKE REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

*(to allow the student to participate on the same basis)*

#### 3. TO PROTECT FROM VICTIMISATION AND HARASSMENT

*(including the family)*

For more information see

[resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au](http://resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au) and [docs.education.gov.au](http://docs.education.gov.au)

## WHY IS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IMPORTANT?

**Inclusive education provides the strongest foundation for a rich, included life in community.**

Inclusion allows a young person with disability to be known within their local community, opening up future opportunities for relationships, and for pursuing shared interests, leisure, work and future study within that community.

When all children grow up together, they learn that difference is not something to be feared or shunned, and they learn how to accommodate individual differences.

School inclusion is the path to dismantling prejudice and harmful practices of segregation, and the cornerstone for building inclusive communities and belonging for all citizens.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

**Inclusion allows students with AND without disabilities to:**

- Enjoy a high quality education consistent with better outcomes for ALL learners.
- Contribute their individual strengths and gifts, with high and appropriate expectations for each child.
- Grow up at the same school as their siblings, in a local community with peers.
- Work at their own pace while participating in the life of the school.
- Learn about and accept individual differences.

## THE EVIDENCE

A large body of research conducted over more than 40 years confirms the benefits of inclusive education.

In multiple studies and reviews, the research shows substantial benefits for students with disability (compared to their peers educated in segregated settings) including higher academic outcomes, more friends, less problem behaviours, and better long-term employment prospects.

These benefits also flow to their non-disabled classroom peers. There is *"clear and consistent evidence that inclusive educational settings can confer substantial short and long-term benefits for students with and without disabilities"*.

Hehir T. et al. (2016) *A Summary of the Evidence on Inclusive Education*. Alana Institute, São Paulo.

**TIP:** Often schools operate models which fall short of full inclusion but when families pursue an inclusive life path for their child and schools commit to working for genuine inclusion, we contribute to school transformation - to the benefit of all.

## TIPS FOR PROFESSIONALS:

### HOW TO SUPPORT INCLUSION.

Know and share the correct definition of inclusion and research evidence on school inclusion so families can be more informed. Support families in their hopes for inclusive education as a foundation for lifelong inclusion - be a strong ally to students and families

We acknowledge the significant input and partnership of the Queensland Collective for Inclusive Education in developing these resources. [www.qcie.org](http://www.qcie.org)