

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

28 January 2026

Senior secondary

Number: 006/26

Key updates to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA)

Purpose

To outline key updates to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA), including updated supporting documentation requirements for QCAA-approved AARA, which will take effect from the 2026 school year.

Background

Recent revisions and legislative changes in the areas of disability and education in Queensland, and learnings from the implementation of the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system, have contributed to a review of existing QCAA policies and procedures for AARA. These changes are reflected in the key updates that have been made to Section 6 of the [QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook v7.0](#).

Information

The recent developments in the environment of disability and education in Queensland have provided an opportunity to refine existing AARA processes to increase efficiencies and reduce school workload.

Key updates

Key updates to Section 6 of the [QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook](#) are:

- an updated introduction
- an added table outlining AARA principles (Section 6.1)
- updated information about
 - eligibility for AARA (Section 6.2)
 - roles and responsibilities (Section 6.3)
 - reporting and approving processes (Section 6.4)
- an added figure about making decisions about AARA (Section 6.4.1)
- updated information about the AARA application and notification process, including updated figures to include consultation with students and/or parents/carers (Section 6.4.2)

- updated information about timelines (Section 6.4.3) and examples of possible AARA (Section 6.4.4)
- added information about supporting documentation for QCAA-approved AARA (Section 6.4.5), including
 - distinctions between a school statement and a school statement on imputed disability
 - medical report (including the requirement regarding the currency of medical documentation for anxiety and depressive disorders to be no earlier than the student's Year 10 enrolment commencement. This will align with the requirement for long-term and chronic conditions)
 - evidence of verified disability
 - currency of supporting documentation for long-term and short-term or temporary injuries
- updated information about illness and misadventure (Section 6.5)
- an added section about AARA in exceptional circumstances (Section 6.6)
- improved consistency of language to describe the purpose of AARA
- increased links to relevant legislation and the broad definition of disability included in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

To assist schools with understanding and implementing these key changes, supporting materials such as fact sheets and templates will be progressively updated on the [Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments \(AARA\) webpage](#) on the QCAA website.

What you need to do

Inform relevant staff about the key updates to Section 6 of the [QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook v7.0](#).

Access the updated resources, factsheets and templates on the [Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments \(AARA\) webpage](#) on the QCAA website. Updated materials will be easily identified by the date in the footer of each document (2026).

Register relevant staff to attend an online webinar [Key changes to Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments \(AARA\)](#). Select one of the following dates: 3 February or 4 February 2026.

Finding out more

For questions about these updates to AARA, please email aara@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone 1300 381 575.

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