

AARA in context

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA)

The DSE

Schools have an obligation under the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (DSE) to make reasonable adjustments to enable students with disability to access and participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments are determined in consultation with students and/or parents/carers.

The NCCD, EAP and RAR

On an annual basis, all schools report the number of students with disability receiving adjustments in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

For many years, Queensland school students with disability have also been included in the Education Adjustment Program (EAP) when criteria was met in specified disability categories. Over 2023 and 2024, the Department of Education is transitioning all state schools from EAP to the Students with disability — Reasonable adjustments resourcing (RAR) model.

Evidence is collected as best practice and to support the inclusion of students in the NCCD, EAP and RAR, including evidence of:

- consultation and collaboration with the student and/or parents/carers
- the assessed individual needs of the student
- adjustments being provided to address their assessed needs
- monitoring and review of adjustments.

AARA

When adjustments are needed for senior students in summative assessment for Applied, Applied (Essential), General and General (Extension), including Alternative Sequences and General (Senior External Examination (SEE)) subjects and Short Courses, schools report or apply for these through the QCAA.

Principal-reported AARA

Principal-reported AARA are arrangements and adjustments approved by the school principal or their delegate and reported to the QCAA. To approve AARA, the principal or their delegate must be reasonably satisfied that the need for the AARA exists and able to provide evidence to justify the decision (evidence is *not* submitted to the QCAA and the QCAA does not specify what is required).

QCAA-approved AARA

QCAA-approved AARA are arrangements and adjustments that must be approved by the QCAA for assessment in Units 3 and 4. Applications must include a medical report (or EAP documentation) and a school statement. In most instances for students with disability, documentation will already be on file. An updated medical report (which may be completed by a GP) may be required, e.g.

- if appropriate medical reports for students with long-term conditions are dated prior to Year 10 enrolment
- for students with mental health conditions including anxiety and/or depression — these reports must be dated within the preceding six months of relevant internal assessment and no earlier than 30 April for external assessment
- if existing EAP verification does not cover Units 3 and 4. Note: All schools may continue to submit EAP documentation for students whose EAP verification was approved to cover Units 3 and 4, with no review of EAP Criterion 1 requested. This applies to verification in all EAP categories with the exception of Social Emotional Disorder (SED). If a review of Criterion 1 was requested for a student, or if EAP verification expired, an update is required, and this may be provided by a GP.