

# Students with Disability

## Disability Statistics and Facts

### Demographics

- In 2015, almost one in five Australians reported living with disability (18.3% or 4.3 million people). [3]
- 18% of men, and 18.6% of women have disability. [3]
- Almost one third of people with disability had a profound or severe disability [3]
  
- 43% of people over 55 years have one or more disabilities. [10]
- 2.1 million Australians of working age (15 – 64 years) have disability. [3]
  
- People with disability are twice as likely to be in the bottom 20% of gross household incomes [1]

### Types of Disability

- 3.4 million (15%) Australians have a physical disability [1]
- 1 in 6 Australians are affected by hearing loss. There are approximately 30,000 Deaf Auslan users with total hearing loss [2]
- Vision Australia estimates there are currently 357,000 people in Australia who are blind or have low vision [Source: Vision Australia]
- An estimated 10% of the population has dyslexia. That's more than two million Australians (Source: *Dyslexia Australia*).
- 45% of the population will experience a mental health disorder during their lifetime. (Source: SANE Australia)
- Every week, 5 Australians sustain a spinal cord injury [6]
- Every week 10 - 15 Australians sustain a severe brain injury [6]
- Every 15 hrs, a child is born with cerebral palsy [6]
- Every 7 hrs, a child is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder [6]
- Every 2 hrs, a child will be diagnosed with an intellectual disability [6]

Extracted from Australian Bureau of Statistics accessed 17/11/2017

*In 2016, 18.1% of students received an adjustment (i.e. change to the curriculum and/or learning environment) to participate in education because of disability (Australian Education Council, Accessed: November 2017).*

“Children with disability have the right to participate fully in their community and to have the same choices, opportunities and experiences as other children.” (Australian Government’s Department of Social Services).

Identification of children with specific learning disabilities is an important process that enables early detection, therefore fast tracking appropriate treatment and support needed for successful functioning in and out of school (Pesova, B., Sivevska, D. & J. Runceva, *Social and Behavioural Sciences*, 149, 701-708, 2014). Research confirms that early intervention, i.e. responding to children’s needs by providing individualised treatment and, or support has proven to provide the best outcomes for children whom are diagnosed with disability (Australian Government’s Department of Social Services).

Having a child with a disability is more common than you many think. Being a parent/carer of child who has been diagnosed with a disability can be a challenging time. To gain a better

understanding of this, Amal, who is former parent of our school, tells her story, (titled, *Amal's story*) via this link:

<http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/video/amals-story-english-arabic-subtitles>

<https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/resources/in-other-languages/arabic>

Our school's learning support team work collaboratively with students and their parents/carers to determine the best learning outcomes for students with a disability. A disability does not define all students' abilities. If a student has a difficulty in one area, it does not mean your child cannot succeed, and one area of deficit does not mean all areas of education are impacted. Our team will help find strategies that will help your child accomplish their goals.

To support our students with disability and their families we have provided website links below. These links offer a better understanding of different types of disability and learning difficulties, as well as accessible information pertaining to community support, services, parent programs and relevant resources.

Links to websites:

Supporting students with additional needs:

<https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/about-difference/additional-needs/supporting-kids-additional-needs>

Raising children with additional needs/disability:

[http://raisingchildren.net.au/children\\_with\\_disability/children\\_with\\_disability.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/children_with_disability/children_with_disability.html)

NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme. Government funding for children with disability:

<http://ndis.nsw.gov.au>

Australian Government Department of Social Services – DSS. Early intervention information for parents and carers:

<https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programmes-services/for-service-providers/for-parents-and-carers>

LDA – LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AUSTRALIA – Learning Difficulties, Disabilities, and Dyslexia:

<https://www.ldaustralia.org/disabilities-and-dyslexia.html>

SPELD - Specific Learning Difficulties:

<https://speldnsw.org.au>

ACD – Association for Children with a Disability:

<http://acd.org.au>

Speech Pathology Australia:

<https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au>

Early Childhood Intervention Australia  
<https://www.ecia.org.au>

NSW Health  
[www.health.nsw.gov.au/disability](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/disability)