

# Transition to post-school for students with disability:

## Fact sheet for students and parents/carers

Transitioning to life after school is an exciting time for all young people, with opportunities to explore different pathways that align with personal passions, interests, strengths and aspirations. Everyone has the right to pursue a life of choice and may require a range of supports to assist them to meet their life goals. All pathways are valuable and may include:

Employment options such as:

- volunteering
- open and supported employment.

Further education and training options such as:

- university
- vocational education and training (VET)
- apprenticeships and traineeships
- adult community education.

Community participation and engagement.

Some students may require support to reach their life goals and to speak about their passions, interests, strengths and aspirations. It is vital for students to actively participate in planning for their transition to post-school. This empowers them to have a voice, advocate for themselves, participate in decision-making and take an active role in planning for their future. It is important that students are able to understand their abilities and acknowledge their challenges. This can help the student to not be defined by their disability, but be encouraged to embrace their strengths.

It is also vital for parents to be involved. This involvement has one of the most significant impacts on successful post-school outcomes for students with disability. One way parents can be involved is supporting their young person to determine their strengths. This can be achieved by identifying and matching the student's ability and interest areas.

Some students with disability will be participants of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#) (NDIS) with a range of supports for life after school included in their individualised plan. Information about supports can be accessed on the NDIS website. This includes information about [School leavers employment supports](#) (SLES). This is an early intervention approach to support NDIS participants in the transition from school to employment.

The [National Disability Coordination Officer](#) (NDCO) program assists people with disability, including students, to move between school, VET, university and work. The program helps to provide advice about options after school and put the student in touch with appropriate people and support to help with further study and find suitable employment. The NDCO program aims to improve transition for students with disability from their school or community into post-school education, training and subsequent employment. They work to establish better links between schools and further education training providers.

This fact sheet outlines some of the important considerations when planning for life after school. The planning should start early (during junior secondary). Students and parents who need support to plan for life after school can work with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the school. Schools offer planning support in a range of ways including workshops, accessing information and individualised support, as required. Do not hesitate to contact your school if you require assistance with any aspect of transitioning to post-school.

### Ability + Interest = Strength

**Ability** – something the student is good at or does well, for example, a competency or skill. Not every ability will necessarily be supported by an interest.

**Interest** – something the student is intrigued or motivated by. Not every interest is supported by a skill or ability. Skills and abilities can be worked on over a period of time, particularly if motivated by an interest.

**Strength** – in some cases the abilities match the areas of interest. These are the student's **strengths**.



## Post-school options

There are a range of post-school options available that students may choose to follow:

### Employment

#### Volunteering

- provides young people opportunities to develop skills, gain confidence and experience and build a network within an industry
- can make the transition to employment easier – young people with disability may require assistance to access volunteering opportunities

#### Helpful information:

- [Volunteering Queensland](#)
- [Students As Active Volunteers Initiative](#)
- [CHC14015 Certificate I in active volunteering](#)
- [CHC24015 Certificate II in active volunteering](#)
- [CHC34015 Certificate III in active volunteering](#)

#### Open and supported employment

- there are many supports available to help students find and keep a job
- a number of agencies work together with employers and employees to locate and shape jobs to fit the interests, skills and abilities of the person with disability
- some students with disability who are seeking support to gain employment may be asked to take a job capacity assessment – this assessment is also used to help determine medical eligibility for the Disability Support Pension (DSP)

#### Helpful information:

- [NDIS](#)
  - [School leavers employment supports \(SLES\)](#)
  - [Finding, keeping and changing jobs](#)
  - [Let's talk about work booklet](#)
  - [Employment resources](#)
- [Queensland Government employment support](#)
- [Disability Employment Services](#)
- [Centrelink](#)
- [Job Access](#)
- [Disability Enterprises](#)
- [Career Me](#)
- [Job capacity assessments](#)

### Further education and training

#### University

- universities provide support to students with disability to ensure they can access and participate in university courses and programs
- at the time of enrolment the young person may wish to speak with the enrolments officer regarding accessing support

#### Helpful information:

- [Australian Catholic University](#)
- [Bond University](#)
- [Central Queensland University](#)
- [Griffith University](#)
- [James Cook University](#)
- [Queensland University of Technology](#)
- [The University of Queensland](#)
- [Southern Cross University](#)
- [University of Southern Queensland](#)
- [University of the Sunshine Coast](#)
- [Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training website](#)

#### VET

- VET refers to education and training that focuses on delivering skills and knowledge required for specific industries
- these courses may commence at school and continue after the student has left school
- students should contact support services prior to enrolment to discuss their specific requirements

#### Helpful information:

- [Queensland Government – Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Support for people with disability](#)
- [TAFE Queensland Student Support Services – AccessAbility support](#)

**Apprenticeships and traineeships**

- apprenticeships and traineeships combine training with work
- can be full-time, part-time or school-based
- support can be provided for people with disability, e.g. sign language interpreters, specialist support personnel, adaptive equipment
- support is arranged at the start of employment and documented in the training plan

**Helpful information:**

- [Queensland Government – About apprentices and trainees](#)
- [Queensland Government – Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Apprenticeships and traineeships](#)
- [Queensland Government – Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Disability support](#)

**Adult community education (ACE)**

- provides a range of individual interest and vocational focused education and training
- provides access to foundation skills and pathways into further learning, community participation and work

**Helpful information:**

- [Queensland Government – Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Adult Community Education \(ACE\)](#)

Career EXPOs provide students with the opportunity to gain the most up-to-date career and work information from a range of employers, training providers and universities. Information about EXPOs and open days can be found at: [Job, Career, Employment, Tertiary Studies EXPO information](#) and [University and College open days and EXPOS information](#).

**Community participation, sport, leisure and recreation****Community participation, sport, leisure and recreation**

- provides opportunities for young people to develop and maintain friendships and relationships beyond school
- allows people to get active and be involved in the community

**Helpful information:**

- [Queensland Government – Sport, recreation and leisure](#)
- [Disability Sports Australia](#)
- [Queensland Outdoor Recreation Foundation](#)



The following provides information about a range of considerations when moving into life after school and becoming more independent.

<b>Health care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>transitioning from paediatric health care into the adult health care system</li> <li>keep a filing system of medical records, e.g. birth certificate, vaccinations, medical interventions, medication history, allergies</li> <li>apply for a Medicare Card</li> </ul>	<p>Helpful information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Australian Digital Health Agency</a></li> <li><a href="#">My Health Record system</a></li> <li><a href="#">Medicare</a></li> <li><a href="#">Medicare Copy/Transfer Application form</a></li> </ul>
<b>Money and budgeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>young people will begin to receive income from employment, Centrelink or other sources</li> <li>managing money effectively is an important skill</li> <li>a number of resources are available to support young people to manage their finances</li> </ul>	<p>Helpful information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Money Smart</a></li> <li><a href="#">Info Choice</a></li> <li><a href="#">Centrelink</a></li> <li><a href="#">Public Trustee of Queensland</a></li> </ul>
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>many different public transport options are available</li> <li>Translink offers access passes</li> <li>some medical conditions will affect the ability to drive and obtain a driver's licence</li> </ul>	<p>Helpful information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Public transport</a></li> <li><a href="#">Translink journey planner</a></li> <li><a href="#">Go card</a></li> <li><a href="#">TransLink access pass</a></li> <li><a href="#">Vision impairment travel pass</a></li> <li><a href="#">Travel trainer card</a></li> <li><a href="#">Urban bus services</a></li> <li><a href="#">Community transport</a></li> <li><a href="#">Companion card</a></li> <li><a href="#">Taxi Subsidy Scheme</a></li> <li><a href="#">Wheelchair accessible taxis</a></li> <li><a href="#">Accessibility at Uber</a></li> <li><a href="#">Learner licence</a></li> <li><a href="#">Medical condition reporting</a></li> <li><a href="#">Practice road rules test</a></li> </ul>
<b>Support services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the NDIS provides eligible young people and their families/carers with greater choice on the types and ways support is provided</li> <li>other support options are available for people with disability</li> </ul>	<p>Helpful information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">NDIS</a></li> <li><a href="#">Financial support</a></li> <li><a href="#">Specialist disability services</a></li> <li><a href="#">Aids, equipment and assistive technologies</a></li> <li><a href="#">Home modifications</a></li> <li><a href="#">Vehicle modifications</a></li> <li><a href="#">Guide, hearing and assistance dogs</a></li> <li><a href="#">Support for carers</a></li> <li><a href="#">Health Care Card</a></li> <li><a href="#">Queensland Community Support Scheme</a></li> <li><a href="#">Planning for the future</a></li> </ul>
<b>Relationships and dating</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>people with disability need access to information and resources to support informed choices about relationships and sexual and reproductive health</li> </ul>	<p>Helpful information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">True Relationships and Reproductive Health</a> (formerly Family Planning Queensland)</li> <li><a href="#">True – Individual education</a></li> <li><a href="#">Kids Helpline – Teens 13-17</a></li> <li><a href="#">Kids Helpline – Young adults 18-25</a></li> </ul>
<b>Moving out</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there are many things to consider and many options available when deciding to leave home or live independently</li> <li>careful planning is required</li> <li>supports are available for people with disability and their families/carers</li> </ul>	<p>Helpful information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Leaving home</a></li> <li><a href="#">Help with daily living</a></li> <li><a href="#">Renting</a></li> <li><a href="#">Rent assistance</a></li> <li><a href="#">Housing for people with disability</a></li> </ul>

**Legal rights and responsibilities**

- it is important for young people with disability to know their legal rights and responsibilities
- in some cases, people can obtain an exemption from voting – contact the Australian Electoral Commission for further information

**Helpful information:**

- [A brief guide to the Disability Discrimination Act](#)
- [Disability Discrimination Act 1992 \(Cwth\)](#)
- [Legal information and your rights](#)
- [Photo identification card](#)
- [Enrol to vote](#)
- [Electors unable to sign their name due to physical incapacity](#)
- [Australian Electoral Commission – Information for people with disability or mobility restrictions](#)

**Staying safe**

- new social opportunities can bring challenges in safe decision making
- includes engaging with social media
- a range of supports are available

**Helpful information:**

- [Kids Helpline](#)
- [Queensland Government Safer Schoolies](#)
- [Red Frogs](#)
- [Staying healthy](#)
- [Alcohol, smoking and drugs](#)
- [Stay Smart Online](#)
- [Australia – Scams and identity theft](#)
- [Queensland Police – Scams](#)
- [Personal Safety Australia – People with disabilities safety service](#)

