

Review of the Program for Students with Disabilities

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A review of the Program for Students with Disabilities began in July 2015.

About the review

The review focuses on the transition from primary to secondary school and the specific needs of students with autism and dyslexia.

The review is being informed by research, expert input, stakeholder engagement and a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of the program. It will ensure support and resourcing is sustainable and delivers improved learning and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people with disabilities.

Who is leading this work?

The Department is managing the Program for Students with Disabilities review with a team of experts and organisations who are passionate about providing the best support possible for Victorian students with disabilities.

Dr Graeme Innes

Australia's former Disability Commissioner, Dr Graeme Innes, is leading face-to-face consultations with parents, academics, practitioners, principals and teachers from mid-July 2015.

Dr Graeme Innes AM is a lawyer, mediator and company director. He has been a human rights practitioner for more than thirty years, and is a conference presenter and facilitator.

Graeme was a Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission for almost nine years, responsible for issues relating to disability, race and human rights. He chairs the Attitude Australia Foundation, a start-up using media to change attitudes towards Australians with disabilities and is a director of Life Without Barriers, Livable Housing Australia and PWC's Diversity Board.



He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Canberra in 2014 in recognition of his work as a human rights activist.

How you can get involved

The Department welcomes feedback from parents, carers, students, principals, teachers and disability professionals and advocates on how the program can better support children with special needs. The opportunities for getting involved are below.

In-person consultations

Renowned human rights practitioner, Dr Graeme Innes, will facilitate consultations with peak industry bodies, principal and teacher associations, disability advocates and unions.

Consultations will commence in July 2015.

Open consultation – online survey

Take our online survey to tell us how we can improve the Program for Students with Disabilities. An online survey will be available here from September and is open to principals, teachers, parents, students and all other members of the public.

Expert Advisory Panel

The review will consult an expert advisory panel including representatives from:

- > Victorian Primary Principals' Association
- > Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals
- > Principals' Association of Specialist Schools
- > Association for Children with a Disability
- > Australian Association of Special Education
- > Parents Victoria
- > Specific Learning Difficulties (SPELD) Victoria
- > AMAZE (Autism Victoria)
- > Royal Children's Hospital
- > University of Melbourne

For more information about the review, see:

- > [Program for Students with Disabilities review Fact Sheet \(docx - 712.53kb\)](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/department/specneedsplanreviewfct.docx)
(<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/department/specneedsplanreviewfct.docx>)