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Students with Disability Assessment Service

Term 1 Assessment Service Update

February 2025

Welcome to the Term 1 newsletter from the Students with Disability Assessment Service (SwD-AS). We are looking forward to working with you this year.

In this edition you will find information on the following topics:

- Referrals from schools in Disability Inclusion areas
- Timelines for referrals
- Reports
- Updated referral forms
- Completing the Vineland-3 assessment
- Schools' dashboard

Referrals from schools in Disability Inclusion areas

We conduct cognitive and language assessments to help schools and families understand the educational support needs of students with disability. We accept referrals from schools where there is evidence a student is likely to have an intellectual developmental disorder (intellectual disability) or severe language disorder with high functional needs.

Cognitive assessments are also conducted to support specialist school enrolment processes for students with intellectual developmental disorder.

Cognitive and language assessments can:

- identify students' language and learning strengths and challenges
- help identify students' functional needs and reasonable adjustments that may support them to participate in school activities on the same basis as their peers
- provide evidence-based recommendations and strategies for teachers and families to support students' individual communication and learning needs.

More information about intellectual developmental disorder and severe language disorder can be found on our [website](#).

Timelines for referrals

The 10-week period recommended before requesting a Disability Inclusion Profile **does not apply** to referrals through our service. Referrals can be made at any time.

Reports

All schools will have transitioned to Disability Inclusion by Term 2 2025. A reminder that all of our reports can be used to support Disability Inclusion processes, PSD applications and/or specialist school disability category verification (cognitive assessment reports only).

Updated referral forms

Our parent and teacher referral forms have been updated and are being sent with referral packs as of this week. The updated forms provide the most recent and accurate information for schools and families. As stated in the referral pack email, please make sure you use the referral forms sent with each individual referral to avoid any delays when processing your completed documents.

Completing the Vineland-3 assessment

The Vineland-3 is an important part of the referral and assessment process and must be completed by a teacher who has worked with the student recently, and for at least 2 months.

To meet these requirements, Vineland-3 assessments completed in Term 1 should be completed by either:

- the 2024 teacher
- the 2024 teacher, together with the 2025 teacher, or
- another teacher who has worked with the student in the classroom regularly for more than 2 months, with details provided on the Vineland-3 cover sheet.

Vineland-3 assessments completed from Term 2 should be completed by the 2025 teacher.

Schools are strongly encouraged to complete the Vineland-3 through our service if they are planning a referral for a cognitive assessment. This helps to ensure results can be easily verified and avoids delays and extra work if assessments need to be repeated.

More information about the Vineland-3 assessment can be found in our webinar: Assessing adaptive behaviour using the Vineland-3.
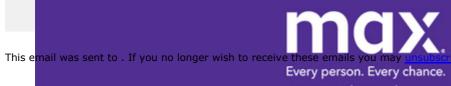
School Dashboard

All schools have access to their own personalised Dashboard and are encouraged to use this to check on the current status of referrals made to our service. Issues reported last year with referrals not updating correctly have now been resolved. School users can access this information online at any time by clicking the button below.

Log in to School Dashboard

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