



Students with Disability Assessment Service

Term 2 Assessment Service Update

May 2024

This newsletter provides important updates regarding referrals for future students commencing school in 2025, assessments for Disability Inclusion Profiles, and new clinical terminology. Please feel free to contact us on (03) 9678 5100 or via email to psd-as@assessments.com if you have any questions.

Referrals for future students commencing school in 2025

Referrals for students commencing school in 2025, including Prep/Foundation students, are now open. Referrals are accepted from schools only, and not preschools or parents. Schools should liaise with early childhood settings to complete the teacher referral form and Vineland-3 assessment and cover sheet. Please mention to our staff at the time of referral if a student is not currently attending an early childhood setting. Assessments will commence from 3 June, when referral documents have been received and marked as complete.

New terminology in reports and documents

The term 'intellectual disability' has recently been replaced with 'intellectual developmental disorder (intellectual disability)' in the diagnostic manual used by health professionals (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR)). We have been using the new term in our reports for some time, and will slowly update all our forms and resources. The PSD category of 'Intellectual Disability' remains the same.

You may have also noticed the term 'developmental language disorder' (DLD) in our reports recently. This is the updated term for language disorders that occur from childhood that are not associated with any other conditions or disabilities. Sometimes you may see 'Language disorder associated with (name of specific condition)'. This is used when language disorders are associated with another condition the student has been diagnosed with. Further information about DLD can be found [here](#).

Assessments to support Disability Inclusion Profiles

A reminder that we can conduct assessments to support Disability Inclusion Profiles where there is evidence that the student is likely to have an intellectual developmental disorder (intellectual disability) or severe language disorder with high functional needs.

While cognitive and language assessments are not required for a Profile, they can provide valuable information for schools and families. As well as being necessary to identify if there is an underlying intellectual developmental disorder or severe developmental language disorder, information from assessments can also:

- help schools to adapt the curriculum and scaffold learning according to students' language and learning strengths and challenges
- help identify students' functional needs and reasonable adjustments that can be used to support them to participate in school activities on the same basis as their peers
- lead to evidence-based recommendations and strategies for teachers and carers to support students' individual communication and learning needs.

School Dashboard

All schools have access to their own personalised Dashboard and are encouraged to use this to check on the current status and progress of referrals that have been made to our service.

School users can access this information online at any time by clicking the button below.

[Log in to School Dashboard](#)

Want some more information about intellectual developmental disorder (intellectual disability) and severe language disorders?

Have a question about our service?

After some more tips and strategies for working with students with additional needs?

Visit our [website](#) for more information about intellectual developmental disorder and severe language disorder, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions and other useful documents. You might also be interested in watching these webinars about intellectual developmental disorder and assessment of adaptive behaviour using the Vineland-3:

[Understanding intellectual developmental disorder](#)

[Assessing adaptive behaviour using the Vineland-3.](#)

Key Dates

3 June 2024 - Assessments commence for future students commencing school in 2025

10 June 2024 - King's Birthday public holiday

28 June 2024 - Term 2 ends

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W: [Students with Disability Assessment Service \(MAX Solutions\)](#)

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