

## Disability assistance

Assistance and support for apprentices and trainees with disabilities may be available from a range of sources.

### Information to get you started

#### What is it?

Training organisations are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' by adapting their training delivery methods to ensure equity and full access to training by people with a disability.

#### Why is it important?

Support while training with the training organisation is best arranged at the commencement of the apprenticeship or traineeship and included in the training plan. The training organisation can not deny services or training to an apprentice or trainee because they have a disability.

#### What support is available?

##### *Disability support officers*

Training organisations may employ a disability support officer to coordinate support and assistance for students with a disability. Contact your training organisation for further information.

##### *Vocational Education and Training Disability Support Service*

The Department of Education and Training's (DET) Vocational Education and Training Disability Support Service (VDSS) provides, through training organisations, support for

eligible apprentices and trainees in the areas of:

- assessment of learning support requirements
- adaptive equipment, and training in its use (software)
- support personnel (AUSLAN interpreters and specialist support workers).

For further information, contact VDSS on 07 3259 4577.

##### *Australian government assistance*

Employers of an apprentice or trainee with a medically-based disability may be eligible for Australian government assistance and support. For further information, contact an Australian Apprenticeships Centre on 13 38 73.

##### *Open Employment Services*

Many apprentices and trainees with disabilities may already receive support from an Open Employment Service. For further information, contact 1800 177 099.

##### *Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service*

An Australian government service providing employers with a range of services to support the apprentice or trainee through assessment. For further information, contact 1800 624 824.

\*Please note that services mentioned in this information sheet may be subject to eligibility criteria.