

Liberal/National response

Below is the advice from the office of the Minister for Education:

'In August 2020, the NSW Government released an Inclusive Education Statement for Students with Disability, to strengthen inclusive practice across all NSW public schools, in our culture, policies and everyday practice. The Inclusive Education Statement advances the commitment in the Disability Strategy to "building a more inclusive education system, one where all students feel welcomed and are learning to their fullest capability".

This year, the Department also implemented an Inclusive Education Policy for students with disability. The Policy will support schools to implement inclusive education and better understand their roles and responsibilities for delivering inclusive education in all our schools. New practice resources and professional learning for schools also accompanied the release of the policy.

Inclusive education in NSW public schools is an ongoing process of reflection, evaluation, and reform at all levels across the Department: in classrooms, schools, and networks, and in policy, practice, projects and culture. The Department is committed to growing inclusive practice, sharing knowledge across the system, and building the capacity of NSW public schools to meet the needs of local students in an inclusive school culture.

The Department is committed to using evidence-based research to support students with disability transitioning from high school. It has a strong focus on individualising school to work programs to reflect the strengths, interests and goals of the young person. This process starts with student centred collaborative planning, and involves their family, school personnel and where relevant other key personnel who may also be supporting the student. This enables greater subject choices or individual programs to be put in place aligning to the student's post school goals, including work transition goals.

The Department offers programs and initiatives that align closely with Family Advocacy's proposed Work Transition Pilot Project which supports young people with disabilities finish school well prepared for higher education, training and/or work. A copy of the Work Transition

Pilot Program is attached for your information and interest. This program ensures students with disabilities or barriers receive customised student-centred assistance including access to support teachers such as post-school Transition Advisers and Transition Support Teachers, Disability. These teachers specialise in enabling students with disability to succeed with their pathways and transition into destinations well suited to their capabilities, interests and aspirations.

The Department provides accredited online professional learning for Career Advisors and Transition Advisers on inclusive strategies. The professional learning is designed to build and strengthen teacher capacity by increasing knowledge and understanding of post-school options and transition pathways, resources, and strategies to engage with employers. The Department also provides supplementary funding to employers to accommodate students with disability or special needs who undertake Higher School Certificate vocational education and training to ensure suitable work placement adjustments can be made. For further information on career learning and vocational education, visit the Department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/career-learning-and-vet> ‘