



Students with Disability Assessment Service

Assessments Australia Service Update

March 2024

This newsletter provides important updates regarding staffing within the Students with Disability Assessment Service, referrals for 2024, Vinelands, and school resources. Please feel free to contact us on (03) 9678 5100 or via email to psd-as@assessments.com if you have any questions.

Staffing

Cathy Pateras has moved into a new clinical role with MAX Solutions and the Program Manager role will now be filled by Colleen Goulding (previously the Clinical Manager - Psychology). Cathy and Colleen have successfully transitioned to these new roles from the beginning of the year. Cathy will continue to oversee the program and provide support where needed.

2024 referrals

New referrals

New referrals are welcome from schools where there is evidence the student is likely to have an intellectual disability or severe language disorder with high functional needs. Referrals can be made by calling our office on 9678 5100. When calling to make a referral, we will need to know details of the verbal consent to share information with us from the student's legal guardian (i.e., who gave consent, the person at the school it was given to, and the date) before we can take any other student details.

Reviews

Referral packs for students due for review this year have been sent to all schools continuing processes through the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD). These students require review assessments to determine eligibility for continued funding beyond 2024. We look forward to receiving these completed referral documents at your earliest convenience.

Mainstream schools in Disability Inclusion (DI) areas with students who would have been due for a PSD review this year will have received an email from us with a list of those students. While a review assessment is not required for a Disability Inclusion Profile, it can be helpful for schools and families to better understand a student's educational support needs, and can provide valuable information to inform their Profile. These assessments can be provided by our service. Please call us or respond to our email if you would like to request a referral pack for any of these students. You will need to provide details to confirm parent/guardian consent.

Specialist schools in DI areas will have received referral packs for students we have been advised will require an intellectual disability category review in 2024. These students require a new assessment to confirm continued eligibility for their enrolment in a specialist school setting beyond 2024. Please let us know if any of these students have had their enrolment recently verified or you become aware of other students who may require a review at this time. If unsure, please contact us or your Regional Disability Coordinator for assistance.

Who should complete the Vineland-3?

The Vineland-3 is an important part of the referral and assessment process, and must be completed by a staff member who has worked with the student recently, and for at least 2 months. To meet these requirements, Vinelands completed in Term 1 should be completed by either:

- the 2023 teacher
- the 2023 teacher, together with the 2024 teacher, or
- another staff member who has worked with the student in the classroom regularly for more than 2 months, with details provided on the Vineland cover sheet.

Vinelands completed from Term 2 should be completed by the 2024 teacher.

Schools are encouraged to complete the Vineland-3 through Assessments Australia wherever possible, to ensure results can be easily verified and to avoid delays in scheduling of assessments and preparation of written reports.

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 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 links to the following webinars and documents:

[Understanding intellectual developmental disorder](#) (webinar)

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

[Complex communication needs information sheet](#)

[Nonverbal cognitive assessment FAQs](#)

Monash University, in conjunction with the Victorian Department of Education, also has a great website with information about a wide range of disabilities, and evidence-based strategies for schools and families. This All Play Learn website can be accessed [here](#).

Key Dates

29th January 2024 - Term 1 begins

11th March 2024 - Labour Day public holiday

28th March 2024 - Term 1 ends

15th April 2024 - Term 2 begins

T: 03 9678 5100

E: psd-as@assessments.com.au

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

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