

In brief

**If you are a student with a disability
and things aren't going well**

September 2018

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* protect the rights of students with disability and their parents and carers.

Students with disability have the right to take part in their education just like all other students. Students with disability must be given choices so they can take part in schooling like all other students. This means that your school may need to make changes to the way they do things. The school will also need to talk with you or your family about this.

1 Speaking up

If you have been treated unfairly, discuss your concern with your family, a support person, or someone you know and trust. This might help to solve the problem. If not, everyone might agree that more needs to be done.

2 Getting your thoughts together

Write down as much about the problem as you can:

- Who was involved.
- What happened and when.
- What you and others have tried to do.
- Why you are still unhappy.

3 Talking with the school

After discussing your concern with your family you might talk to the school. This is usually the easiest way to solve a problem. It is a good idea for you or your parents or support person to talk to a teacher you trust or the school principal. They may fix the issue and you won't have to do anything more.

Sometimes the solution is not exactly what you want, but it might still be fair. The school also has to think about everyone else's needs.

4 Taking your concerns further

If you are still unhappy with the result, you or your parents can contact the school authority in your state or territory.

If this does not help, you or your parents can contact the human rights or anti-discrimination body in your state or territory, or the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Commission can discuss the problem with everyone, and make a decision that everyone must follow.

More information about the Commission is available at www.humanrights.gov.au/complaints, or you can call 1300 656 419.