

# Aspect's Response to the Education and Learning Issues Paper Summary

## Disability Royal Commission

Submitted January 2020

## What is the Disability Royal Commission about?

This Royal Commission is called the **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**.

We call it the Disability Royal Commission.

The Disability Royal Commission wants to know about people with disability and their experience of:

- **violence** – if someone's body is being hurt by someone else
- **abuse** – if someone is being treated badly
- **neglect** – if someone is not being helped in the way they are supposed to be
- **exploitation** – if someone is being taken advantage of.

## What is the *Education and Learning Issues Paper*?

The Disability Royal Commission wrote about people with disability and the support to learn.

This paper is called the Education and Learning Issues Paper (**Issues Paper**).

The Issues Paper says that there are some common issues for people with disability in education and learning.

The Issues Paper asked questions about what it is like for people with disability in places where they might learn including

- schools
- colleges
- universities.

## **Aspect's response to the Issues Paper**

People and organisations do not have to respond to the Issues Paper. It is a choice.

Aspect wrote back about the Issues Paper to the Disability Royal Commission in January 2020.

Aspect wrote about the following topics.

### **Aspect's history**

We wrote about what we do at Aspect including:

- Aspect's **schools**
- How we work in schools
- The **Aspect Comprehensive Approach**

The Aspect Comprehensive Approach makes Aspect an autism-friendly place.

Aspect does what works best for autistic students.

### **Aspect's schools**

We wrote that it is important for schools to provide support to students on the autism spectrum to learn.

Each student on the autism spectrum may need different supports.

Aspect wants students on the autism spectrum to be included in all schools.

At Aspect students learn the skills they need to use for school.

Some of the ways Aspect helps are

- **Individual education plans**

Individual education plans help schools know what works best for each student.

- Autism-specific supports

Autism-specific supports are things we know work best for people on the autism spectrum.

- Satellite classes

Satellite classes are Aspect school classes that are at a public or independent school.

These classrooms help students to develop the skills to move to a local school of their choice.

- Support to move school

We help our students when they are ready move from an Aspect school to a new public or independent school.

- School support

Aspect helps the new schools support our students.

## **Including people on the autism spectrum**

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.

Everyone has the right to access education.

Education should support everyone's needs. This is **inclusive education**.

**Mainstream schools** are schools that are for everyone.

Mainstream schools should always be inclusive.

Some people think that this means students should not go to a **special school**.

A special school is a school for only students with disability.

Aspect schools are a special school. Aspect schools only teach students on the autism spectrum.

Aspect agrees that mainstream schools should be inclusive for everyone.

For many reasons some mainstream schools do not have the best supports for students on the autism spectrum.

Sometimes the way a mainstream school works does not work for a student on the autism spectrum.

Aspect works with mainstream schools to help them be inclusive for students on the autism spectrum.

Students and families may also like to learn in a special school that already works for them.

Having a choice of school that works best for students on the autism spectrum is another way to be inclusive.

## **What will the Disability Royal Commission do with Aspect's response?**

The Disability Royal Commission will use the information Aspect gave them to:

- complete their work
- decide if they want to ask Aspect for more information
- share information