

Topic 2: Arrangements for Students with a Disability who undertake a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship

Students with a disability, like all students, require a thorough, organised and appropriate preparation for work prior to entering into a School-based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SAT) contract. Opportunities need to be provided to allow students to make informed decisions about the work they would like to do. This must take into account the realities of the labour market as well as the capabilities, interests and potential of the student.

It is advisable that students undertake work experience across a range of industries to help refine interest in particular careers. Work Education and Work Readiness Certificates provide ideal preparation for work placements and SATs. Students need to demonstrate a positive work ethic and enthusiasm for the particular industry area before committing to a training contract.

To make apprenticeships and traineeships more accessible to students with disabilities a partnership needs to be developed between the various stakeholder groups including schools.

External Services for SATs with a disability include:

- Open Employment Services (under Commonwealth Department of Families and Community Services) who may be able to assist schools in:
 - assessing the appropriateness of the SAT for the student;
 - job matching the student to an appropriate position; or
 - providing extra assistance or support on the job.
- *Centrelink*
Centrelink officers determine eligibility for access to Open Employment Services. Schools or other stakeholders involved in the SAT arrangement should contact the Centrelink Disability Officer at the nearest Centrelink to organise appropriate testing. It should be noted that access to Open Employment Services may not be available under SAT arrangements. However, even if the student receives no extra assistance through Open Employment Services while undertaking a SAT, this contact allows establishment of procedures for access to post-school assistance

It is important that the student, parent, school, RTO and support services work collaboratively to develop the training plan as this is the time to reach agreement on the support required by the student, plus who has responsibility for providing or funding extra support. If this is left until after the traineeship or apprenticeship contract is signed, services are unlikely to be available.

Some literacy and numeracy tutorial support may be available to the RTO through Education Queensland's Senior Phase of Learning Team, Curriculum Branch – phone (07) 3237 1053. Request for this funding must be made prior to the signing of the Training Contract.

Useful websites:

- www.centrelink.gov.au
- www.facs.gov.au
- www.education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning/students/disabilities/senior.html