

## SDSS Program Organisations

**SDSS Organisations provide the following services to eligible students:**

- 1. School Support Services**
- 2. Resource Centre Services**
- 3. Specialised Equipment**

**To request a service for your school please contact SDSS organisations directly**

### (1) School Support Services

#### Act for Kids (Brisbane, North Coast and Townsville)

**Email:** [sdsswoolowin@actforkids.com.au](mailto:sdsswoolowin@actforkids.com.au) - Brisbane and North Coast

[welcomeng@actforkids.com.au](mailto:welcomeng@actforkids.com.au) - Townsville

**Telephone:** (07) 3357 9444 – Brisbane and North Coast  
(07) 4755 8777 – Townsville

The Brisbane and Townsville services target eligible students who have experienced, and/or, are at risk of harm. Students referred to the service will receive integrated therapeutic support from a trauma informed multidisciplinary team to reduce the impact of trauma and address any subsequent barriers to educational access, learning and achievement.

The services provide multidisciplinary assessment and therapy services, including speech & language pathology, occupational therapy and psychological support. The services partner with school personnel within the educational environment to develop, implement and monitor therapeutic programs for students and also support staff to enhance their knowledge and develop skills to elicit trauma informed responses.

The North Coast service provides trauma informed psychologists who support students, to overcome barriers to access, participation and achievement within the educational environment.

The psychologist supports students to enhance their social and emotional wellbeing through individual or group therapy, in class support, ongoing needs analysis and flexible, collaborative case planning with school personnel.

Teaching staff have access to training and discipline specific resources to enhance their trauma knowledge and build pedagogical strategies for the classroom.

#### Autism Queensland (State-wide)

**Email:** [schoolvisits@autismqld.com.au](mailto:schoolvisits@autismqld.com.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3273 0000

Autism Queensland's service provides specialist education and therapy services to support increased access to the curriculum, participation in learning alongside peers, and improved educational outcomes for students on the autism spectrum. Support is provided by an interdisciplinary team of speech language pathologists, occupational therapists and specialist teachers with skills and knowledge in autism.

In consultation with schools and education sector contacts, Autism Queensland will provide initial consultations, follow up session/s or video/teleconference support, and education sessions or forums. The service also provides resources to support learning and an Education Support Line, accessible via telephone or email five days per week, which provides immediate access to information and advice for teachers, school support staff and parents.

### [Banana Shire Council \(Banana Shire\)](#)

**Email:** [crc@banana.qld.gov.au](mailto:crc@banana.qld.gov.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4992 7360

Banana Shire Council's Community Resource Centre (CRC) therapy service includes professional support, mentoring, coaching, individual and group intervention services in partnership with education support team members, focusing program delivery in three areas:

- Individual school delivery of education and therapy supports to meet student goals.
- Multi school education and therapy intervention programs - group program delivery and alternate venues to support students with similar goals but who attend multiple schools.
- Development and maintenance of a resource and specialised equipment library to ensure contemporary, easily accessible resources to enable maximum use and access for trial and loan.

### [Bundaberg & District Neighbourhood Centre \(Bundaberg\)](#)

**Email:** [info@bundabergneighbourhoodcentre.org.au](mailto:info@bundabergneighbourhoodcentre.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4153 1614

The services provided include the delivery of speech language pathology and occupational therapy, in collaboration with the student support team in each school. Students who are not accessing out-of-school therapy services are given priority.

### [Cairns Catholic and Independent Schools Therapy \(ACCIST\) \(Cairns Region\)](#)

**Email:** [hchapman1@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hchapman1@cns.catholic.edu.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4050 9722

The services include occupational therapy, speech language pathology and physiotherapy. The key aim of the services is to work with schools to enhance the access, participation and educational outcomes of students with disability. This is achieved through direct service provision (assessment and implementation of evidence-based strategies and recommendations), targeted individualised and group interventions, collaborative goal setting and educational planning with school teams (personalised learning plans and curriculum planning), resource provision/trials and capacity building of school staff via professional learning facilitated by therapists or individualised coaching to meet specific student/school needs.

### [Deaf Connect \(Hear for Kids in School Program\) \(Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich and Townsville\)](#)

**Email:** [therapy.info@deafconnect.org.au](mailto:therapy.info@deafconnect.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3848 0080

Speech language pathology and occupational therapy services will be provided to eligible students in Prep to Year 2 who have a hearing loss. Services are provided to support students' engagement and participation in the curriculum, with speech language pathology focusing on the areas of expressive and receptive language and literacy skills, and occupational therapy on fine motor skills, handwriting, sensory processing and behavioural regulation.

Services are responsive to the individual needs of students in the school setting and may include assessment; verbal/written reports, classroom-based therapy support, support to teachers in the development of individualised student programs, individual therapy, consultation and collaboration with school staff and parents, liaison with outside agencies and the development of specific resources and programs.

### [Down Syndrome Queensland](#) (State-wide)

**Email:** [education@downsyndromeqld.org.au](mailto:education@downsyndromeqld.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3356 6655

The service supports eligible students with Down syndrome and other intellectual disability in school settings across Queensland. The statewide service will support students in metropolitan, regional, rural, and remote schools. Educators are provided with free access to proactive support to identify and address potential barriers early, enhance attendance and equitable participation, improve learning experiences, and support eligible students to achieve their individual educational goals.

Support is provided by a team of teachers with expertise in inclusive education and intellectual disability. Schools can receive support ongoing throughout the year, with follow-ups negotiated as regularly as required.

The service includes:

- Profiling of students to identify existing or potential barriers the student is facing/may face in their educational setting;
- a face-to-face or virtual consultation with relevant school staff to collaboratively address barriers and co-create inclusive goals to enhance the student's access, participation, and learning;
- a post-consultation strategy-based report and free resources to assist implementation of the co-created goals (the report and resources can be shared with families and other members of the student's educational team); and
- reflective follow-up consultations to review progress and identify the next steps and supports needed to achieve this.

### [Granite Belt Support Services](#) (Stanthorpe Region)

**Email:** [adminteam@gbss.org.au](mailto:adminteam@gbss.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4681 3020

Therapy services are provided to the Granite Belt cluster of state and non-state schools including speech language pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. The service uses a multidisciplinary approach to deliver therapy interventions, including supporting students to be able to access and participate in learning opportunities. The professional services include:

- The use of standardised and observational therapy assessments of students to determine current abilities of each student, prioritise needs and to ensure a service delivery based on student strengths. The assessment process is done in collaboration with people who know the student well e.g. educators, therapists and parents/carers.
- Consultation with carers, teachers, support staff and other specialists to determine, maintain and monitor effective individual curriculum plans and program plans.
- Design and implementation of therapy programs to enhance skills and/or make adjustments to equipment, curriculum or environments to ensure individual needs of students are catered for and suited to their context.
- Development and presentation of short, practical workshops for education staff to build their capability in meeting the needs of eligible students, including support for education staff to transfer workshop content into their planning and teaching.

## [Guide Dogs Queensland \(State-wide\)](#)

**Email:** [sdss@guidedogsgld.com.au](mailto:sdss@guidedogsgld.com.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3500 9060

The service empowers students with vision loss to achieve independence, participation, inclusion and wellbeing. Targeted therapy and supports for students living with vision impairment or blindness is provided state-wide. Programs are designed in collaboration with school support teams within the expanded core curriculum to enable each student to access, participate in, and achieve at school to their full academic and social potential. Depending on the needs of the school and student, we can provide supports in person or via electronic means. Our programs include:

- Programs to enable access and mobility to and within school environments.
- Programs to support students in accessing learning materials and to maximise their ability to participate in classroom activities.
- Interactive information or development sessions to school staff or student groups to build school capacity and complement our service provision to support long-term academic outcomes for each child.

Whilst we are well known for our trusted Guide Dogs, the services to schools through SDSS are through evidence-based therapy programs delivered by a team of specialists, which include orientation and mobility specialists, occupational therapists, assistive technology specialists, and psychologists.

Through our programs and support, we complement school services through the expanded core curriculum, enabling independence in students to promote ability, inclusiveness, understanding and acceptance of vision impairment and blindness.

## [Hear and Say \(State-wide\)](#)

**Email:** [mail@hearandsay.com.au](mailto:mail@hearandsay.com.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3850 2111

The service provides support to eligible students who are deaf or hard of hearing and are transitioning from Hear and Say's early intervention program to formal education, currently supported for therapy through Hear and Say's targeted intervention program, or who are individually referred by a school. The service will provide targeted support as needed throughout the individual student's school years to improve their access to and participation in the curriculum and assist in optimising their educational outcomes. This is achieved through exposure to dedicated listening and spoken language intervention, as well as the provision of specialised support mechanisms to key personnel in targeted students' educational settings.

Following referral from a school, this service will be provided by listening and spoken language specialists, educational audiologists and/or occupational therapists carrying out on-site visits. The service includes:

- Meeting individual students needs and achieve goals outlined in service request/ referral.
- Assessment of the classroom environment, with recommendations to enhance listening and reduce barriers to access as appropriate.
- Hearing technology support and training to enable education personnel and student confidence with technology in order to ensure that listening and learning opportunities are maximised.
- Enhancing outcomes for students who have additional delays in the areas of motor planning and sensory integration, by providing services for targeted students and support to the parents and professionals involved in their care.
- The provision of professional development training opportunities for education personnel.

## [Language Disorder Australia \(State-wide\)](#)

**Email:** [sss@languagedisorder.org.au](mailto:sss@languagedisorder.org.au)

**Telephone:** 1300 881 763

The service supports eligible students to access and participate in the curriculum by working with schools to identify students' individual needs and by supporting teachers and schools to reduce barriers to learning and participation. This School Support Service supports students including those with Language Disorder, or language difficulties associated with other diagnoses (such as Autism and Intellectual Disability), which are impacting their access to the curriculum.

The service is staffed by a team of specialist inclusion educators, speech language pathologists, and occupational therapists. The team provide services including informal multidisciplinary assessments to identify students' and schools' unique support needs, consultative meetings and collaborative goal-setting with school staff, provision of targeted recommendations, strategies and resources, individualised reporting, and capacity building sessions and professional learning services for educators and stakeholders.

## [Link Vision \(Brisbane, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast\)](#)

**Email:** [office@linkvision.org.au](mailto:office@linkvision.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3846 1258

The service supports eligible students via the provision of mentoring and capacity building, to enhance the interaction between student and curriculum. Link Vision mentors assist in the development of computer-based skills through various programs, from basic to advanced, and depending on the individual needs of the student. The program works towards the development of self-sufficient independent learning for eligible students with a disability.

Link Vision works closely with the curriculum programs already established in schools. Sessions are designed around the student's individualised learning plan and there is ongoing collaboration with key school staff to ensure that all appropriate adjustments are made to enable students to access and participate fully in their education.

## [Muscular Dystrophy \(Cairns, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast\)](#)

**Email:** [info@mdqld.org.au](mailto:info@mdqld.org.au)

**Telephone:** 1800 676 364

Muscular Dystrophy Queensland works in partnership with schools to provide physiotherapy and occupational therapy services for eligible students with muscular dystrophy and similar, rare, progressive, muscle wasting conditions. The service provides consistency throughout the students' schooling and as their conditions progress.

Services are provided through school visits, teleconferences and ongoing liaison with school support teams. The therapists work closely with the school support team in identifying barriers to learning, setting collaborative goals and providing educational supports, equipment prescriptions, input and tailored advice in response to the student's physical, cognitive and learning requirements.

Standardised assessments and a set of observations will track achievement of the student's specific goals, improved attendance, level of participation, and access to the curriculum and school environment.

## [Northcott – formally Montrose](#) (Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast)

**Email:** [northcott@northcott.com.au](mailto:northcott@northcott.com.au)

**Telephone:** 1800 818 286

School therapy services provided by Northcott include physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology. Therapists are experienced in working with children with a range of disabilities including physical disabilities, cerebral palsy, neuromuscular conditions, developmental delay, intellectual disability and autism. Therapists can provide support, information and advice to teachers in areas like communication, concentration, participation, and social engagement. Northcott SDSS funded therapists work holistically with school-based therapists to ensure approaches and goals are complimentary.

Services are carefully tailored to student and school needs. Examples of work with schools includes:

- Collaboration with school staff to set goals and measure outcomes
- Individual student observation, assessment, therapy and reports
- School programs and practical strategies

Supports provided are centred around student access to the curriculum and education facilities, maximising education and learning outcomes, and supporting personal development and independence in the school setting.

## [True Relationships and Reproductive Health \(Family Planning Qld\)](#) (State-wide)

**Email:** [schools@true.org.au](mailto:schools@true.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3250 0240

The service delivers Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in schools to eligible students with disability. Relationship and sexuality education is part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum from Foundation - Year 10 and part of the 21st Century Skills in the senior syllabus for Year 11-12.

Specialist educators support schools by facilitating tailored CSE at schools' request across all year levels. Education sessions not only support direct access to curriculum content for students, but it also supports social and emotional learning to better facilitate student engagement at school. Added benefits of CSE are that it facilitates inclusion for all students and provides teaching for practical life and social skills such as menstrual management, understanding rules about touch (and how to help-seek), safety online, and maintaining good sexual and reproductive health and safety of students. This service also allows for specialised education resources that support student learning in this area, many of which are developed in conjunction with school/student consultation.

## [Vision Australia](#) (State-wide)

**Email:** [ChildrenandYoungPeopleQLD@visionaustralia.org](mailto:ChildrenandYoungPeopleQLD@visionaustralia.org)

**Telephone:** (07) 3727 2345

Vision Australia's school support services provide professional therapy and consultation in schools for eligible students who are blind or have low vision. Services address the individual learning requirements for students within their educational setting. Therapeutic assessments and interventions are designed to maximise student's' learning potential and ability to access and participate in the curriculum.

This service is delivered by occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech pathologists, psychologists, access technology specialists and orientation and mobility specialists. Vision Australia works with the school team, mainly providing services that support individual students, but also providing group interventions exclusively for vision impaired students or to vision impaired students and their classmates or year level, where schools indicate this is a need.

## **(2) Resource Centre Services**

### **[ARC Disability Services \(Cairns Region\)](#)**

**Email:** [info@arcinc.org.au](mailto:info@arcinc.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4046 3600

The ARC Inclusive Education Resource Centre provides a resource loan service targeting the diverse learning needs of eligible students. The centre provides a wide variety of specifically selected educational resources to assist schools to deliver an inclusive curriculum. Professional advice from the centre assists teachers in selecting appropriate resources to meet the individual needs of the students.

The service collaborates with teachers, diverse learning support staff and school-based therapists to target relevant resources for students' individualised learning plans and assist in achieving the required outcomes for students. The service model includes professional advice, a centre-based resource selection service, an online catalogue to order resources and a school delivery service of resources to schools twice per term.

### **[Cooloola Community Toy Library \(Cooloola Region\)](#)**

**Email:** [kennedy@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:kennedy@spiderweb.com.au)

**Telephone:** 0448 826 762

The service provides support to eligible students and education team members. This is achieved through ready access to quality educational toys and games, adaptive educational resources, specialised equipment, furniture, interactive material, gross and fine motor equipment.

The services also include advice regarding items to enhance the student's learning and development in schools, age-appropriate resources, specific items for particular needs, provision of classroom sized kits for large groups, and other resources that are not commercially available to schools.

To complement the in-house service, a free loans delivery and collection service is available for schools.

### **[Fraser Coast Regional Council \(Fraser Coast Region\)](#)**

**Email:** [library@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:library@frasercoast.qld.gov.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4190 5788

The services provided by the Maryborough Toy and Special Needs Library give teachers, therapists and other members of school support teams access to a variety of specialised resources and equipment to assist eligible students to meet their individualised learning goals, and to achieve greater independence, dignity, choice, participation and inclusion at school.

The service includes a courier service to allow for swift and safe delivery of resources directly to schools, with a return service also available.

### [Queensland Braille Writing Association](#) (State-wide)

**Email:** [coordinator@qbwa.org.au](mailto:coordinator@qbwa.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3848 5257

The service meets the needs of schools by providing high quality braille transcribed resources to enhance access to and participation in the curriculum for eligible students.

### [YMCA Bundaberg \(Bundaberg Disability Resource Centre & Toy Library\)](#) (Bundaberg Region)

**Email:** [bundytoylibrary@ymcabundaberg.org.au](mailto:bundytoylibrary@ymcabundaberg.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4153 2909

The service provides a resource loan service targeting the diverse learning needs of eligible students with disability in schools across the Bundaberg Region. The service will work in collaboration with the students' therapists, school staff and other educational support team members to meet learning needs and support the development of each student's education program.

The resources are used to support students to achieve their education goals, to support their participation in curriculum activities and to help support their engagement in their learning programs through the use of resources and equipment.

The service includes an extensive range of educational resources and specialised equipment, professional advice, and online and centre-based library borrowing services. A delivery and collection service for resources is also available to schools once a term.

## (3) Specialised Equipment

### [Banana Shire Council](#) (Banana Shire)

**Email:** [crc@banana.qld.gov.au](mailto:crc@banana.qld.gov.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4992 7360

The available specialised equipment has been identified for its potential to assist eligible students with a variety of disabilities to improve participation in and access to the curriculum. The specialised equipment available for trial includes a wide range of seating and desk options, mobility equipment, high and low tech alternative augmentative communication and diagnostic assessments.

### [Guide Dogs Queensland](#) (State-wide)

**Email:** [sdss@guidedogsgld.com.au](mailto:sdss@guidedogsgld.com.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 3500 9060

This service provides access to specialised equipment to assist students with low or no vision to access and participate in school. Schools will have the opportunity to request this equipment for trial purposes on a six-month loan basis to compliment and support the student. Guide Dogs will provide interactive information sessions to school staff to build school capacity and maintain and compliment service provision to support long term outcome delivery.

### [Vision Australia](#) (State-wide)



**Email:** [SDSS.EquipmentLoans@visionaustralia.org](mailto:SDSS.EquipmentLoans@visionaustralia.org)

**Telephone:** (07) 3727 2345

Vision Australia's specialised equipment service provides advice and specialised equipment to school support team members to enable students to participate fully in the educational environment. It's unlikely a single solution or piece of equipment will meet all of a student's needs, therefore, selection and trial of the equipment requested will provide school staff and the student the opportunity to find the best fit for their individual education needs.

**[YMCA Bundaberg \(Bundaberg Disability Resource Centre & Toy Library\) \(Bundaberg Region\)](#)**

**Email:** [bundytoylibrary@ymcabundaberg.org.au](mailto:bundytoylibrary@ymcabundaberg.org.au)

**Telephone:** (07) 4153 2909

The Bundaberg Disability Resource Centre and Toy Library provides specialised equipment to assist eligible students by increasing their access to and participation in the curriculum. The service also provides advice to teachers and educational support team members, so they can identify and choose specialised equipment suitable to assist eligible students to access and participate in the curriculum.

The service includes an extensive range of specialised equipment, professional advice, and online and centre-based library borrowing services. A delivery and collection service for resources is also available to schools once a term.