



Statewide Vision Impairment Services

Statewide Vision Impairment Services (SVIS) builds the capability and confidence of school teams, parents and caregivers to support students with blindness and vision impairment to access, participate and engage in the curriculum and all aspects of school life developing life-long learners.

SVIS consists of a number of service areas as outlined below.

Education Low Vision Assessment Centre (ELVAC)

Staff at ELVAC assist school teams to understand the student's functional use of their vision in educational environments. This involves the identification of the impacts of the student's vision loss and support to determine and implement the appropriate reasonable adjustments.

A student is eligible for ELVAC services if they have been diagnosed with a vision impairment by a medical specialist.

Where appropriate, the SVIS team also facilitates literacy access assessments to determine the most efficient literacy mode (generally print or braille) to meet the ongoing learning needs of individual students.

For further information, and referrals of students to the service, email 3140_ELVAC@eq.edu.au.

Alternative Format Library (AFL)

The AFL produces and loans a range of alternative format learning materials assisting students with blindness and vision impairment to access and participate in their learning.

This includes providing learning materials in braille, large print and audio, tactile kits and picture books for literacy, tactile resources for science, mathematics, music and humanities and social sciences.

Please contact 3140_AFL@eq.edu.au to request production and/or loan of learning materials in braille, large print or audio and other resources. A catalogue is available on request.



Orientation and Mobility Advisory Visiting Teachers (AVTs)

Statewide AVTs — Orientation and Mobility are experienced teachers of students with blindness and vision impairment who have additional qualifications in the area of Orientation and Mobility (O&M). Orientation and Mobility AVTs visit students in their educational setting to assess and support students as they learn to gather information using their senses to develop purposeful movement. They guide school teams, families and caregivers in implementing evidence based strategies and setting high expectations for students with a vision impairment to safely, confidently and efficiently access, participate and achieve within their learning environments.

For further information, please contact DoE Orientation and Mobility AVTs, email 3140_OandM@eq.edu.au.

Braille Advisory Service

The Braille Advisory Service works in conjunction with AVTs-BVI, and specialist teachers BVI to support the teaching, learning and use of braille in schools and early childhood settings. Through the provision of resources and advice, the service assists school-based teams to develop the basic competencies required to effectively support students who access the curriculum through braille, or who may do so in the future.

For further information, please contact the Braille Advisory Service, email 3140_Braille@eq.edu.au.



Assistive technology and loans

The SVIS Assistive Technology AVT provides advice to classroom teachers and school teams including assessing and determining appropriate technologies based on student need and assisting students to access and participate in their learning.

Statewide Equipment Trial and Loans Program (BVI Collection) lends to schools magnification, braille reading and writing devices and assistive technology to support a student's visual access at school.

Queensland state schools are also able to access a range of software programs free of charge including Fusion incorporating Jaws and Zoomtext.

For further information, please contact Assistive Technology, email 3140_ATech@eq.edu.au.

Contact details

If you have any questions regarding the services provided by the Statewide Vision Impairment Services (SVIS), please email 3140_SVIS@eq.edu.au or telephone (07) 3823 0747.