



Student Information For **DISABILITY**

What do I need to know?

Disability work involves working directly with people with a disability and their families. It ranges from providing assistance with day to day activities to supporting participation in the wider community. Disability services may be provided to people with a disability in their homes, at a workplace, in a community setting or even at schools. Disability services are found in cities and country communities and there are a wide variety work opportunities in government and non-government organisations that provide disability services.

Disability workers do a range of activities from working directly with people with a disability to working in roles that support services an organisation provides, such as administration, program planning, public relations or advocacy. Depending on the disability service organisation, work may include working with a range of age groups, doing all sorts of activities and assisting people with a disability to have choices, independence and confidence. Activities are not limited to just life and personal skills though shopping for clothes, using the computer or cooking can be fun for all. Disability workers also assist with social, recreational and sporting activities.

Is this course for me?

Before selecting the Certificate III in Individual Support the following are important attributes for a career in disability work. Consider if you:

- Have a desire and commitment to working in disability
- Have an interest in people
- Have a non-judgmental and positive attitude
- Desire to make a difference in people's lives
- Have the support and commitment of parents/guardians

What will I learn?

- New communication skills which may include Auslan, Braille, 'disability specific' and being a good listener
- Using new media technology to encourage access to new experiences
- Confidentiality of practice
- Solving problems
- Organisational and time management skills
- Working effectively with people with disabilities
- Working effectively in the community sector
- Working effectively with culturally diverse clients and co-workers
- Workplace health and safety

What will I be doing?

- Be involved in the lives of vulnerable people, supporting them to be independent and to achieve goals
- Be part of a team
- Will be supervised at all times in the workplace
- Will be encouraged to be innovative, flexible and creative

Study options

The Certificate III in Disability is a nationally recognised qualification that is currently offered to HSC students in NSW as a VET in School pathway or a School Based Traineeship. It is recognised by the NSW Board Studies for inclusion in your Record of School Achievement or HSC. The Certificate III in Disability is available for study as part of Stage 5 or the Higher School Certificate, depending on the availability of a Registered Training Organisation to deliver the qualification at your school and an appropriate work placement to complete the on the job component of the course.

The course involves theory and practical learning and assessment.

For School Based Traineeship:

A School Based Traineeship for the Certificate III in Disability provides you with the opportunity to gain the qualification and your HSC while undertaking paid employment as a trainee. As a school based trainee, you work part-time and complete the off the job training as part of the HSC. The training is provided in NSW by TAFE NSW or a private Registered Training Organisation.

As a school-based trainee you will enter into a Training Contract for a term of sufficient duration to allow for the completion of the formal training requirements as well as the requirement of a minimum of 100 days of paid employment. (could be during school holidays and some early starts or shift work may be required).

Are there other requirements for Disability work?

Some important things to know are:

- Training occurs both on and off the job so you will need to consider how to get to your workplace and to training venue
- You will be observed and mentored at work
- You will be responsible for turning up to work and working within the industry guidelines and workplace policies, such as:
 - No jewellery, except stud earrings
 - Appropriate clothing such as shirt/pants, closed in shoes
 - No phones while at work
 - Shift work hours may mean early start.

Are there other subjects that may help me while studying for the Disability qualification?

When selecting your HSC subjects you may wish to consider how they may complement to your vocational studies and contribute to achieving best results. For a Disability career pathway the following subjects may be beneficial:

- Society and Culture
- Community and Family Studies
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Creative Arts
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Music 1
 - Music 2 and Music Extension
 - Visual Arts
- Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Studies

Are there fees and costs?

If you are at a government high school the course cost is covered via the schools staffing allocation, this means that there is no direct cost to students. If you are at a non-government high school your school VET coordinator will explain about the different costs involved.