



# **A Guide for Students with a Disability or Chronic Medical Condition at University in South Australia**





## Australian Government

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### Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations



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# About this Booklet

This booklet aims to provide information to people with a disability or chronic medical condition who are considering university study.

Disability in this context is broad in scope and as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act (1992). It includes people with sensory and mobility impairment, chronic medical conditions, psychological or psychiatric conditions, neurological conditions such as learning disabilities and other disability conditions.

# Studying at University

Places are not specifically reserved in university courses or programs for students with a disability.

## Entry to University in South Australia

Entry to university in South Australia is via application to the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC).

Information you may have provided to SATAC or to your school regarding your disability will not be forwarded to the university. You need to seek out the assistance you require. It is useful to seek advice well before the course commences. Make an appointment to see the Disability Advisor. Contact details are on page 6 of this booklet or contact the main telephone number for the university and ask to be connected.

There are three modes of entry into university:

- a) The South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). Students from other states or territories can apply using their equivalent of SACE and the Tertiary Education Rank (TER). In Victoria this is known as the ENTER; in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory as the UAI and in Queensland as the OP. Through the SATAC application process you should notify SATAC of special circumstances that have impacted on your SACE.
- b) Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT). Students over the age of 21 undertaking the STAT may apply to SATAC for adjustment to conditions for the examination. The SATAC website contains information about eligibility for admission via STAT.
- c) Special Entry Programs run by individual universities. Refer to the individual university prospective student websites.



# Studying at University

If you are unsure of which discipline to choose, or are concerned about your capability to complete your studies, there are various services to support your decision making. These include school counsellors, National Disability Coordination Officers, Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service, course handbooks, university prospective student services and disability service providers.

# Planning Ahead

If you think you may need support or adjustments in your study, you need to consider all of your daily activities and anticipate where problems may arise. For example:

- Who are the Disability Advisors on campus, where do I find them and what can they do for me?
- How will I communicate with others about what I need?
- Where are the lifts and toilets on campus?
- Where can I park?
- What type of assistive technology is available?
- Can I obtain an easily accessible locker?
- Is there a map of the campus so I can find the easiest route to classes as well as accessible entry and exit points?
- Can I make arrangements with the Library for extended loans if necessary?
- Will staff retrieve books from high shelves for me?
- Can I access the library, administrative offices and all essential places by using the lift?
- Think about your course of study and what may be involved – for example, field trips, group work, lab classes and so on.

A booklet to help you plan for a successful transition to university is available at: **[www.adcet.edu.au/ndco/sa](http://www.adcet.edu.au/ndco/sa)**. It is titled *Setting Goals and Achieving them: A planned approach for success through higher education and training*. You can also contact your national Disability Coordination Officer for a copy.

# Disclosing Your Disability

If you require adjustments in relation to your studies on the basis of your disability you need to provide documentation of your disability from an appropriate treating physician to the university's Disability Service.

All documentation and other information you provide is treated confidentially and is not disclosed to other university staff without your permission.

It is recommended that you disclose at the earliest possible time. This can be done by completing the relevant section on your enrolment form. Early contact with a Disability Advisor is very important so that any supports or reasonable adjustments can be organised before classes start.



# Accommodating Your Disability

South Australian universities have a specific processes in place, managed by the Disability Service in each university.

To establish an Access Plan, make an appointment with the Disability Advisor at your university.

Once you have provided appropriate documentation the Disability Advisor will negotiate a Disability Access Plan with you.

The Access Plan has three purposes:

- d) provide information to assist academic staff to support you in your studies;
- e) document any agreed services such as Auslan interpreters or assistive technology; and
- f) detail agreed adjustments to examination arrangements.

## Information provided to lecturers

- Not what the disability is, but
- The functional impact of the disability, and
- Any adjustments they need to provide to overcome the impact of the disability.

# Your Responsibilities

Provide supporting documentation.

- Negotiate support or adjustments in a timely manner. If you don't do this your needs will not be accommodated.
- Notify staff if your circumstances change.

## Your Rights

The laws that specifically relate to the rights and responsibilities of students and providers of higher education in South Australia are the Equal Opportunity Act (1984), the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and the Disability Standards for Education (2005).

Links for these resources are provided at the end of this booklet.

## Complaints and Grievances

All universities have grievance procedures to deal with complaints. Refer to the websites of the individual universities.

See page 9 for contacts. Procedures can be downloaded from each of the universities' websites.

# Contacts

## Flinders University

Health, Counselling and Disability Services

Level 3 Student Centre

Phone: (08) 8201 2118

TTY: (08) 8201 3242

Email: [disability@flinders.edu.au](mailto:disability@flinders.edu.au)

Web: [www.flinders.edu.au/current-students/healthandcounselling/disabilities.cfm](http://www.flinders.edu.au/current-students/healthandcounselling/disabilities.cfm)

## University of Adelaide

Horace Lamb Building, Ground Floor

North Terrace Campus

Phone: (08) 8303 5962

Web: [www.adelaide.edu.au/disability](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/disability)

## University of South Australia

TTY: 8302 4842

Email: [disability@unisa.edu.au](mailto:disability@unisa.edu.au)

Web: [www.unisa.edu.au/ltu/contact/teams/disability.asp](http://www.unisa.edu.au/ltu/contact/teams/disability.asp)

*Phone contact is to the Learning and Teaching Unit on each campus or as listed below*

### City East Campus

Level 2 Playford Building

Phone: 8302 2330

Fax: 8302 2363

Toll free: 1300 657 122

### City West Campus

Ground Floor Yungondi Building

Phone: 8302 0022

Fax: 8302 0021

Toll free: 1300 656 377

## Magill Campus

Q Building

Phone: 8302 4423

Fax: 8302 4390

Toll free: 1300 657 144

## Mawson Lakes Campus

C1-50 (Library)

Phone: 8302 5006

Fax: 8302 5777

Toll free: 1300 657 133

## Mount Gambier Campus / Whyalla Campus

Campus Central

Phone: 8302 6161

Fax: 8302 6190

Toll free: 1800 808 957

# Resources

## Australian Human Rights Commission

### National Office:

GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9284 9600

Fax: (02) 9284 9611

Complaints Info-line: 1300 656 419

Freecall TTY: 1800 620 241

Email: [paffairs@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:paffairs@humanrights.gov.au)

Web: [www.hreoc.gov.au](http://www.hreoc.gov.au)

## Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS)

Level 1, 165 Grenfell St, Adelaide SA 5000

(see telephone directory for regional offices)

Phone: (08) 8402 4200

Web: [www.crsaustralia.gov.au](http://www.crsaustralia.gov.au)



## Disability Advocacy and Complaints Service SA Inc (DACSSA)

Provides a free and independent advocacy service to people with disabilities (including mental health) in order to raise and resolve grievances and complaints.

Unit 3, 178 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville SA 5031

Phone: (08) 8234 5699

Fax: (08) 8234 6044

Freecall: 1800 088 325

TTY: (08) 8234 2229

Email: [drigney@dacssa.org.au](mailto:drigney@dacssa.org.au)

Web: [www.dacssa.org.au](http://www.dacssa.org.au)

## Legal Services Commission

82 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Phone Advice: 1300 366 424

TTY: (08) 8463 3691

Web: [www.lsc.sa.gov.au](http://www.lsc.sa.gov.au)

## Equal Opportunity Commission

2nd floor, 45 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 464, Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: (08) 8207 1977

Fax: (08) 8207 2090

Freecall: 1800 188 163

TTY: (08) 8207 1911

Web: [www.eoc.sa.gov.au](http://www.eoc.sa.gov.au)

## South Australian Council for Community Legal Services

Provides assistance with finding a community legal service near you. The community legal service will advise and assist people who have been or may be discriminated against because of a disability.

Phone: (08) 8342 1800

Fax: (08) 8342 0899

Web: [www.sacclsl.org.au](http://www.sacclsl.org.au)

## Disability Information and Resource Centre (DIRC)

195 Gilles Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Contact details for disability organisations, support services and service providers can also be found in the DIRC Disability Services Directory, available online.

Phone: (08) 8236 0555

Fax: (08) 8236 0566

Local call cost in SA: 1300 305 558

TTY: (08) 8223 7579

Email: [dirc@dircsa.org.au](mailto:dirc@dircsa.org.au)

Web: [www.dircsa.org.au](http://www.dircsa.org.au)

## National Disability Coordination Officers

Web: [www.adcet.edu.au/ndco/sa](http://www.adcet.edu.au/ndco/sa)

[www.deewr.gov.au/ndco](http://www.deewr.gov.au/ndco)

Region 23: Adelaide, Adelaide West, Adelaide East, Adelaide South

Monica Leahy

Phone : (08) 8207 8652

Fax: (08) 8207 8889

Email: [monica.leahy@tafesa.edu.au](mailto:monica.leahy@tafesa.edu.au)

Region 24: Northern Adelaide, Mt Lofty Ranges, Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island, Murray Mallee, South East

Jenny Watts-Sampson

Phone: (08) 8302 5444

Fax: (08) 8302 5677

Email: [jenny.watts-sampson@unisa.edu.au](mailto:jenny.watts-sampson@unisa.edu.au)

Region 25: Pt Lincoln, West Coast and Eyre Peninsula, Whyalla, Pt Pirie, Flinders Ranges, Far North (including Pt Augusta), Yorke Peninsula, Lower North, Barossa and Riverland

Karin Bolton

Phone: (08) 8647 8139

Fax: (08) 8647 6082

Email: [karin.bolton@unisa.edu.au](mailto:karin.bolton@unisa.edu.au)



## Online Resources

### **The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)**

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/comlaw/management.nsf/lookupindexpagesbyid/IP200401406?OpenDocument>

### **Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (South Australia)**

[http://www.eoc.sa.gov.au/site/eo\\_for\\_you/discrimination\\_laws/south\\_australian\\_laws/equal\\_opportunity\\_act.jsp](http://www.eoc.sa.gov.au/site/eo_for_you/discrimination_laws/south_australian_laws/equal_opportunity_act.jsp)

### **Australian Human Rights Commission**

[www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au)

### **Disability Standards for Education**

[www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination\\_DisabilityStandardsforEducation](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_DisabilityStandardsforEducation)

[www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/framelodgmentattachments/9006BFF67F0BE554CA256FD50023EB0A](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/framelodgmentattachments/9006BFF67F0BE554CA256FD50023EB0A)

[www.edustandards.info](http://www.edustandards.info)

### **South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC)**

[www.satac.edu.au](http://www.satac.edu.au)

### **Universities Australia Disability Guidelines**

(formerly the Australian Vice Chancellors Committee)

[www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/documents/publications/policy/statements/DisabilityGuidelinesMay06.pdf](http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/documents/publications/policy/statements/DisabilityGuidelinesMay06.pdf)

