

# Video transcript: Supporting Students with Disability

## About this audit

In this audit, we looked at how the Department of Education implemented its Disability Inclusion program (or DI) during year one of a 5-year rollout.

The department plans to roll the program out to all of its 4 regions and their 17 areas. We examined 3 areas.

We assessed whether the program setup gives students with disability equitable access to education.

## Some background

About one quarter of all Victorian students receive adjustment for disability.

The DI program is intended to benefit all students with disability, not only those needing extensive, targeted support.

To do this, the department has introduced a tiered funding model and programs to share information about inclusive education.

## Our conclusion

We concluded that the DI program is designed to allow students with disability to access education on the same basis as students without disability.

While implementation in some places is not as effective as in others, the department is addressing barriers by increasing support to schools and regions and improving the program.

We made 2 key findings.

## Finding 1: Variation in implementation approaches

First, the department's implementation model is supporting schools to provide inclusive education, but there is variation in each region's rollout approach and level of success.

Each region has dedicated DI teams and the autonomy to implement the program according to their unique circumstances. Early data shows regions are most successful when they:

- integrate those teams and share information
- closely monitor school uptake
- and give schools a dedicated pathway to access support.

## **Finding 2: Department could do more to ensure regions adopt best practices**

Second, the department's monitoring and oversight of the program is timely, and it is identifying and addressing issues to improve the rollout. But it can do more to ensure regions adopt the best implementation practices so that students with disability benefit more quickly.

The department has commissioned a multi-year evaluation of the DI program, and its framework for this is sound.

### **What we recommended**

To address barriers and capitalise on what is working well, we made 2 recommendations to the department about:

- current and future regional/area implementation plans including effective practices
- proactively working with regions/areas to identify barriers and adopt best practices.

### **More information**

To read our full report or download a transcript of this video, please see our website.