

# Appendix A:

## Submissions and comments

We have consulted with the department, and we considered their views when reaching our audit conclusions. As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, we gave a draft copy of this report, or relevant extracts, to those agencies and asked for their submissions and comments.

Responsibility for the accuracy, fairness and balance of those comments rests solely with the agency head.

### Responses received

Agency	Page
Department of Education	A-2



## Department of Education

Secretary

2 Treasury Place  
East Melbourne Victoria 3002  
Telephone +61 3 9637 2000

BRI23121379

Mr Andrew Greaves  
Auditor-General  
Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Dear Mr Greaves

### **Proposed report: Supporting Students with Disability performance audit**

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2023 and the opportunity to comment on the proposed report for this audit. The department is committed to making inclusive education a part of everyday practice in all schools and classrooms, and to improving the achievement, participation and wellbeing outcomes for students with disability.

The department appreciates the collaboration from your team throughout the audit. The proposed report's findings and conclusions reflect positively on the department's implementation approach and progress to date, while highlighting opportunities for refinement to implementation settings to ensure schools implement Disability Inclusion as intended.

The department has reviewed the proposed report and has attached an action plan to address the recommendations in the report. Should you wish to discuss the department's response, please contact Shamiso Mtenje, Acting Executive Director, Integrity, Assurance and Executive Services Division on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



**Jenny Atta**  
Secretary  
06/06/2023

*Encl.: DE's action plan*

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the *Public Records Act 1973* and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address



## DE action plan: Supporting Students with Disability

#	Recommendations: That DE:	Response	#	The Department will:	By the end of (MM/YY):
1	<p>Ensure that current and future regional and area implementation plans contain effective practices, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• close coordination between DI implementation teams and School Improvement and School Support workforces so that the links between tiered funding and support models, and the system capability initiatives, are embedded in early implementation</li> <li>• data monitoring that shows how each school is progressing in each element of DI so that regions and areas can make strategic decisions at the local level</li> <li>• a single and organised pathway for schools to access DI expertise in their region, so that they receive timely support to help them implement all elements of DI</li> </ul>	Accept	1.1	<p>Introduce new processes requiring regional implementation plans that include annual area-based priorities.</p> <p>Plans should include effective implementation practices identified state-wide and consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• embedding Disability Inclusion (DI) across regional and area workforces</li> <li>• using data monitoring to inform implementation and strategic decision making</li> <li>• school engagement processes, including the pathway for schools to access DI expertise in their region.</li> </ul>	December 2023
			1.2	Develop and submit annual regional implementation plans during the staged rollout of DI, for consideration by the Disability Inclusion Implementation Working Group (DIIWG).	April 2024
2	<p>Proactively work with regions and areas to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify barriers to implementation at the local level</li> <li>• adopt better practices to address those barriers, such as close regional coordination or improved data monitoring</li> <li>• ensure that DI rollout remains timely, so that schools make consistent progress in taking up all elements of DI.</li> </ul>	Accept	2.1	Proactively work with regions and areas to maintain oversight of the progress of DI rollout through data collection and monitoring of implementation.	Current and ongoing during the rollout
			2.2	Undertake a review of DIIWG and Project Control Board Terms of Reference, including membership, to ensure appropriate regional and area representation to oversee and inform the rollout of DI.	October 2023
			2.3	Introduce new monitoring processes requiring regional governance bodies to develop quarterly dashboard reports to provide updates on implementation barriers and practices to address barriers.	December 2023
			2.4	Submit bi-annual dashboard reports to the PCB.	April 2024