

Fact Sheet

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA)



Under the new senior assessment system, *Special Provisions* are now called *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA)*.

The QCAA recognises that some students have a disability, impairment and/or medical condition, or experience other circumstances that may be a barrier to their performance in assessment. AARA are designed to assist these students through minimising barriers for eligible students to demonstrate their learning, knowledge and skill in assessment.

QCAA Guidelines stipulate that **schools** make decisions about AARA for Units 1 and 2. The guidelines ensure that AARA used in Units 1 and 2 align with available adjustments for Units 3 and 4. These guidelines can be found at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au.

NB: Approval of AARA arrangements by a school for Units 1 and 2 is not a guarantee that students will be provided the same AARA by QCAA for Units 3 and 4.

AARA Categories

AARA are provided to minimise, as much as possible, barriers for a student to read, respond to or participate in assessment. These barriers fall into two broad categories:

CATEGORY A: 1) permanent; 2) temporary; 3) intermittent

CATEGORY B: 1) cognitive; 2) physical; 3) sensory; 4) socioemotional

AARA Application Process

1. Student/guardian contacts Head of Department Senior Schooling to discuss eligibility. Students with a verified disability contact HOSES. Fact Sheet, Application Form, Confidential Student Statement pro forma and Confidential Medical Report pro forma.
2. Confidential medical report completed by GP.
3. Student submits Application Form, Confidential Student Statement and Confidential Medical Report to Head of Department Senior Schooling.
4. Unit 1 and 2 - Head of Department Senior Schooling meets with GO for final decision.
Unit 3 and 4 - Head of Department Senior Schooling submits AARA application to QCAA for approval.
5. Head of Department Senior Schooling informs student/guardian, GO and curriculum HODs of outcome of application.
6. Paper copy stored in student file; digital copy uploaded to OneSchool and QCAA Portal.

Due Dates - end of Term One Week Three for Semester One

- end of Term One Week Three for Semester Two