

[LEARN MORE ABOUT](#)

VET Information Standard | Disability supplement

The Disability supplement provides additional information about the disability classifications used in the VET Information Standard, including detailed descriptions to assist with reporting. This information is designed to help RTOs support students when answering the disability question.

Disability in this context does not include short-term disabling health conditions, such as a fractured leg or influenza, or corrected physical conditions, such as impaired vision managed by wearing glasses or lenses.

Disability classification scheme

The complete disability classification scheme, with detailed descriptions, is provided below.

Acquired brain injury

Injury to the brain that results in deterioration in cognitive, physical, emotional or independent functioning. Acquired brain injury can occur because of trauma, hypoxia, infection, tumour, accidents, violence, substance abuse, degenerative neurological diseases or stroke. These impairments may be either temporary or permanent and cause partial or total disability or psychosocial maladjustment.

Autism

Used to describe pervasive developmental disorders involving disturbances in cognition, interpersonal communication, social interactions and behaviour, in particular obsessive, ritualistic, stereotyped and rigid behaviours. This may include Asperger's syndrome and Pervasive Developmental Delay.

Deafblind (dual sensory)

Refers to dual sensory impairments, which result in severe restrictions in communication and participation in community life. Deafblindness is not just vision impairment with a hearing loss, but a unique disability of its own requiring distinct communication and teaching practices.

Hearing/deaf

Used to refer to a person who has an acquired mild, moderate or severe hearing loss after learning to speak, who communicates orally and maximises residual hearing with the assistance of amplification. A person who is deaf has severe or profound hearing loss from, at, or near birth and mainly relies upon vision to communicate, whether through lip reading, gestures, cued speech, finger spelling and/or sign language.

Intellectual (including Down syndrome)

In general, the term 'intellectual disability' is used to refer to low general intellectual functioning and difficulties in adaptive behaviour, both of which conditions were manifested before the person reached the age of 18. It may result from infection before or after birth, trauma during birth, or illness.

Specific learning/Attention deficit disorder (ADD) (other than intellectual)

A general term that refers to a diverse group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in developing listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning, or mathematical abilities. These disorders are intrinsic to the individual, presumed to be due to central nervous system dysfunction, and may occur at any time during a person's life span.

Medical condition

A temporary or permanent condition that may be hereditary, genetically acquired or of unknown origin. The condition may not be obvious or readily identifiable yet may be mildly or severely debilitating and result in fluctuating levels of wellness and sickness, and/or periods of hospitalisation.

Neurological (including epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease)

Relevant to impairments of the nervous system occurring after birth, including epilepsy and organic dementias, for example Alzheimer's disease, as well as conditions such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

Physical

Affects the mobility or dexterity of a person and may include a total or partial loss of a part of the body. A physical disability may have existed since birth or may be the result of an accident, illness, or injury suffered later in life.

Psychiatric

Refers to a cluster of psychological and physiological symptoms that cause a person suffering or distress and which represent a departure from a person's usual pattern and level of functioning.

Speech

Encompasses speech loss, impairment and/or difficulty in being understood.

Vision

A partial loss of sight causing difficulties in seeing, up to and including blindness. This may be present from birth or acquired because of age, disease, illness or injury.

Other

A disability, impairment or long-term condition that is not suitably described by one or several disability types in combination.

No, I do not have a disability

The person does not have a disability.

Prefer not to specify

The person does have a disability but would prefer not to share this information on the enrolment form.