Education for Students who are Blind or have Low Vision

Implement the Expanded Core Curriculum nationally for students who are blind or have low vision and require universities to comply with accessible information and communications technology (ICT) procurement standards.

Students with disability have a right to access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability.

Children who are blind or have low vision can encounter barriers to learning and may require a set of disability-specific skills to be able to fully access and engage with the school curriculum.

Strengthening education systems to support students who are blind or have low vision to access and participate in education on the same basis as students without a vision impairment is essential for improving all students' educational outcomes, as identified in Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031.

To address barriers, the Expanded Core Curriculum has been developed which identifies key areas where students can benefit from additional, targeted education by qualified specialist teachers, including assistive technology, career education and independent living, among others.

The Expanded Core Curriculum is a methodical, proven approach used internationally, and in some parts of Australia. Research suggests that students who have been taught using its methodology enjoy better outcomes later in life.

Implementing The Expanded Core Curriculum nationally and ensuring national benchmarks are created to monitor delivery, will ensure children who are blind or have low vision receive an education equivalent to their peers and have equal access to opportunities in adulthood.

People who are blind or have low vision are also more likely to gain employment if they are equipped with a tertiary qualification. But universities don't always consider the access needs of people with vision disabilities when procuring information and communications technology.

As a result, students face barriers such as complicated web interfaces, inaccessible documents and unusable digital submission systems. This makes it difficult to access learning materials or complete assessments, forcing some students to discontinue their study.

Vision 2020 Australia calls on the Australian Government to set requirements for all publicly funded universities to comply with accessible information and communications technology procurement standards.

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