



January 2024

Hi ,

Happy New Year!

Every day we see the benefits of families advocating for their children with disability.

The importance of advocacy is highlighted by both the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review. However, support for disability advocacy is severely underfunded.

Currently, there is no federal funding for Victorian child and family-focused disability advocacy. This needs to change. ACD is supporting the Speak Up for Independent Advocacy campaign. [Please join us in asking the Australian Government to increase funding.](#)

Coming up is our popular workshop on Student Support Group (SSG) meetings. This free workshop gives you practical information about how to make the most of SSG meetings to best support your child at school. [Book your spot today.](#)

Wishing your family a positive start to the school year.

Karen Dimmock, CEO



Do you have a school-aged child with developmental delay or disability? Then register for our **free** online workshop about Student Support Group (SSG) Meetings.

The workshop will give you practical information about SSG meetings to help you support your child on their school journey. Topics include:

- Children's rights in education
- Advocating for your child at school
- Reasonable adjustments – what they are and what you can ask for

[Register now](#)

A positive start to school

The new school year is about to start, and you may have questions and concerns about how best to support your child and work with the school.

For support and advice, call the ACD Support Line today. It's a **free** telephone advocacy service for all Victorian families raising children with developmental delay and disability from birth to 18.

Our trained support advisors can help you understand:

- Your child's rights at school
- School-based funding
- Reasonable adjustments
- How to work together with the school

Open Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm. Interpreters are available.

Call the ACD Support Line [03 9880 7000](tel:0398807000) or [1800 654 013](tel:1800654013) (regional)



Sharing information with your child's teacher

The beginning of a new school year is a great time to share information about your child with their teacher. We've created an easy-to-use template called About Me, which will help you get started.

[Get the template](#)



Toileting and health support at school

Whether it's help with toileting, eating and drinking, or complex medical care – your child has the right to feel supported at school. Find out about the support schools must provide and how to access it in our **free** guide.

[Read the guide](#)

Epilepsy Smart Schools

This program has been developed to support students with epilepsy, their teachers, and their school. It's designed to provide a safe learning environment for your child and would be useful to share with your child's school.

[More information](#)



Reasonable adjustments at your child's school

Reasonable adjustments are the changes schools make to support your child's participation. In our guide, we explain what they are and give some practical examples.

[Find out more](#)



How school funding works

For some students with disability, extra funding is available. Schools apply for the funding and it can be used to fund additional teaching staff, professional development, and education support staff.

Government schools

Funding for students with disability is changing and the Disability Inclusion Program (DIP) will gradually replace the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD). Find out if your child's school has moved to the Disability Inclusion program and learn more about the new process [here](#).

If your area is still using the Program for Students with Disability, you can find out about it [here](#).

Catholic schools

Catholic school funding for students with disability works differently. You can read more [here](#).

Best wishes

The ACD team

Stay connected

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Association for
Children with a
Disability

[03 9880 7000](tel:0398807000) | [1800 654 013](tel:1800654013) (regional)
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ACD acknowledges the traditional owners of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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