



January 2025

Hi ,

We had a great start to the 2025 school year by meeting the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, Ben Carroll.

I was joined by two parents who shared their children's experiences at school, including school refusal, restricted attendance hours, and lack of reasonable adjustments. We also discussed the Disability Royal Commission and its recommendations for increased leadership accountability and reasonable adjustments.

The Commission highlights the importance of disability advocacy, which we see in our work at ACD. Each year we assist thousands of families to advocate for their children at school, and we attend over 300 school meetings alongside families and students.

If you would like free advocacy support, please contact the [ACD Support Line](#) on 03 9880 7000 or 1800 654 013 (regional callers).

Karen Dimmock, CEO



If you have a school-aged child with developmental delay or disability, our free online workshop Student Support Group Meetings.(SSG) is not to be missed!

This 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](#)



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](#)



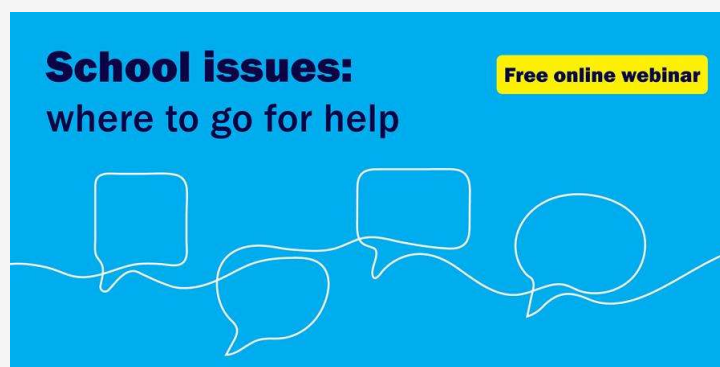
**Free telephone
advocacy service**

Get ready for school with the ACD Support Line

While it's still the school holidays, now is a great time to start preparing for the new school year. Our free telephone Support Line is available to help you navigate the new school year and transitions.

Our trained Support Advisors can provide information on things such as funding, reasonable adjustments, Student Support Groups, and how to create a positive relationship with the school and help your child's teacher learn more about them.

Call our Support Line on [03 9880 7000](tel:0398807000) or [1800 654 013](tel:1800654013) (regional callers). Lines are open Monday - Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, and interpreters are available.



If your child is having issues at school it can be very stressful, but raising a concern can help address these issues and improve the situation.

To explain what help can be provided to families, ACD is hosting a free webinar which will feature the following speakers:

- Frank Handy, Chair of the Independent Office for School Dispute Resolution
- Dan Stubbs, the Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner
- Liana Buchanan, Principal Commissioner for Children and Young
- Karen Dimmock, CEO, ACD

We'll discuss the types of concerns you can raise, what help is available, and how to work with the school for a better outcome for your child.

This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable information and not to be missed!

[Book your spot](#)

Epilepsy Smart Schools

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

[Find out more](#)



Virtual MyTime is back for 2025

Have you joined Virtual MyTime yet? This peer support group for parents of children with disability is entirely online, giving you the flexibility to connect with others from the comfort of your own home.

Whether you live in a remote area or have a busy schedule that makes it difficult to attend in-person support groups, Virtual MyTime is a way to connect. Our professional facilitator, who's also the parent of a young person with disability, offers support and guidance during the sessions.

Sessions begin on Monday 3 February, and will continue every week in Term 1.

Book your spot today and start connecting with others!

[Join Virtual MyTime](#)



Reasonable adjustments

Reasonable adjustments are the changes schools make to support your child's participation.

ACD has written a free guide to reasonable adjustments that explains what kind of adjustments you can ask for to ensure your child gets the support they need.

[Find out what you can ask for](#)

How does school funding work?

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

Whether your child attends a government or Catholic school, you can find information about school-based funding on the ACD website.

[Learn how funding works](#)



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. Our free guide tells you about the support schools must provide, how to access it, and how to make a Student Health Support Plan.

[Learn more](#)

A generous donation

ACD is delighted to have received a \$50,000 donation from the Western Vocational Association (WVA).

In 1984, two mothers had an idea to create opportunities and change the lives of young people with disability leaving school, and WVA was born. For the last 40 years, WVA's services and enterprises have created meaningful employment, skills training, and social opportunities for thousands of young people with disability in Melbourne's west and north.

In 2024, WVA made the difficult decision to wind down operations and distribute their reserved funds to like-minded organisations.

We thank WVA for their tireless efforts, and for their generous donation to support ACD's future work. What a wonderful way to start 2025!

Best wishes

The ACD team

Stay connected

Follow us on



Association for
Children with a
Disability

03 9880 7000 | 1800 654 013 (regional)
Level 1, 587 Canterbury Road Surrey Hills VIC 3127

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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advocacy service**

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