

Our approach

The Department of Education and Training provides physiotherapy services to students with disability enrolled in state schools.

These services focus on enhancing education programs and learning outcomes for students with disability.

Physiotherapists use a team approach to maximise the capacity of school teams and work collaboratively with other therapy teams to deliver a co-ordinated service.



Contacts

For local physiotherapy services contact your:

- school principal
- Head of Special Education Services
- regional office

Find out more

For more information visit:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/learning/disability/specialists/pt/index.html>

<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au>



Physiotherapy in Education

LEARN TO MOVE • MOVE TO LEARN



Physiotherapy in schools

Our focus

Physiotherapists assist students with disability enrolled in state schools to develop the skills they require to access learning and participate at school.

Services are delivered as a component of the curriculum and are directed towards change to education outcomes.

Physiotherapists in education:

- work in schools supporting the teaching and learning process and are members of the education team
- promote the student's optimum wellbeing, function and independence at school
- are part of the team that develops an education plan for each student
- assist the team with adjustments to school activities and school environment to achieve students' education goals
- consult with and provide resources and training to school staff, parents and the school community.



Our role

Physiotherapy services are available for students with disability enrolled in state schools and focus on enhancing education programs and outcomes for students with:

- intellectual disability
- physical impairment
- hearing impairment
- speech language impairment
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- vision impairment.

Physiotherapists may look at students:

- working in classrooms
- moving around the school
- playing during breaks
- participating in physical education classes.

Physiotherapists use specialised knowledge of:

- posture
- senses of the body
- nerves, muscles, joints and bones
- movement, coordination and balance
- fitness
- pain.



Services

Physiotherapists will:

- advise on choice of desks and chairs, specialised seating, mobility and standing equipment
- advise on posture and positioning to enhance access and participation in classroom activities
- advise on mobility within the classroom and school grounds
- recommend adjustments to the school environment to allow the student's involvement in school activities
- prevent or reduce the chance of further disability through positioning and intervention such as prescription of orthoses
- discuss and provide training on aspects of manual handling for individual students to allow participation in school activities
- recommend adjustments to existing education programs to meet specific student needs
- assist with choice and use of assistive technology to facilitate independent mobility, communication, play, recreation and computer access
- enhance students' confidence and self esteem by working towards maximum independence in the school setting
- liaise with other agencies that provide services to students with disability
- work with the education team to prepare students for transition into primary school, secondary school, and post school life
- enhance understanding of the impact of disability on a student's learning.