



# Easy Read Version: WAESPA Position Paper Response

## About this document

This document explains WAESPA's response to the Review of the School Education Act 1999. The lead author was Yolande Stewart. Her co-authors were Natalie Hatton and Rebecca Wheatley-Deal with consultation from the 2025 Executive Committee.

## What is Inclusive Education?

Inclusive education means every student is welcomed and supported to learn. It is based on fairness and equity

It is part of Western Australian legislation and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## WAESPA's Key Ideas

WAESPA says inclusive education should happen in all schools.

The lived professional experience of our members needs to be utilised to support the Disability Reform Unit.

A range of education settings is critical to providing placements.

Inclusive education needs clear rules and supports in place for all educators in all settings.

## 8 Important things for inclusive education to work:

- Participation: Students join classes where it is appropriate and with supports.
- Access: Schools make reasonable adjustments so all students can learn on the same basis as others.
- Universal Design: Lessons and spaces are planned for all students from the start.
- Needs-Based Support: Help is based on what the student needs, not just the diagnosis.
- Funding: Individual disability allocation is **consistent** regardless of setting.
- Accountability: Ongoing checks by DOE to judge whether inclusion implementation is working.
- Training: Teachers and all educators learn how to include all students through ongoing professional learning and time is given to schools to support this capacity building.
- Clear Narrative: The Department of Education needs to build a clear narrative about the difference between inclusion and tokenistic integration.



## What Happens Next?

WAESPAA will keep working with the Department of Education and advocating with the Minister to use our expertise and the success of the traditional models of ESS/ESC to support all versions of models now present in our system.

Together we will make sure inclusion is real in every school.

WAESPAA is releasing their paper on Building an Inclusive Education System for Western Australia.

WAESPAA is promoting their definition everywhere - on every platform.

## Glossary

**Inclusive Education:** Every student can learn and take part in a space that is appropriate for them.

**Reasonable Adjustment:** A change to help a student join in.

**Universal Design:** Planning spaces & lessons so everyone can learn. Every student learns best when the space meets their needs

**Space:** A space is a learning environment that helps a student feel comfortable and ready to learn. It will be different for each student.

**Inclusion means** students are supported to learn and participate in ways that meet their needs VS tokenistic integration which means placing students in settings without the right supports, which can lead to poor outcomes.

The top left corners of each page show logo.

The logo features the acronym WA - ESPAA in large, bold letters. The first part "WA" is in dark blue, and "ESPAA" is in bright turquoise blue. Beneath the acronym, there is a tagline in smaller text that reads: "Advocacy and Leadership in Special Needs Education" in dark blue and turquoise.

The design includes two sweeping, curved brushstroke shapes—one in dark blue and one in turquoise—forming a dynamic, circular motion around the text. These strokes give the logo an energetic and inclusive feel, symbolising movement and support. The overall colour scheme is a mix of dark blue and turquoise blue,

If you are using accessibility functions to read this aloud, this paper ends now.