



**Date:** Tuesday, 6 February 2018

## Assessment tool to focus on ability of students with disability

Educators and support staff will find it easier to recognise and respond to the learning needs of students with significant intellectual disability through a tool which will be introduced into South Australian public schools over the next 2 years.

Abilities Based Learning and Education Support (ABLES) provides a suite of curriculum, teaching, assessment and reporting resources that guide educators to accurately identify students' individual learning goals and track their progress against an individual learning plan over time.

A number of South Australian special schools that have piloted the assessment and reporting tool have responded positively to how easy it is to report and evaluate student outcomes on the one platform as well as create learning plans specific to individual strengths and needs.

Approximately 1000 to 1500 students with significant intellectual disability will benefit from this program annually.

### Background

ABLES has been developed by the Victorian Government and the University of Melbourne and is used in Victoria, and other States and Territories.

### Quotes attributable to Executive Director Early Years and Child Development, Ann-Marie Hayes

ABLES has proven to be a highly effective assessment and reporting tool.

Schools who have trialled it reported how easy it is to use the system and how valuable it is in informing specific learning needs of students with significant intellectual disabilities.

The tool will allow educators to focus on students' ability rather than their disability, determine where their learning strengths lie and what they can do to encourage growth in other areas of the curriculum.

Our schools can now align with the majority of the states and territories in the country that use ABLES.

-ENDS-

### MORE INFORMATION

**Media hotline:** (08) 8226 7990

**Email:** [DECD.MediaUnit@sa.gov.au](mailto:DECD.MediaUnit@sa.gov.au)

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