

Disclosure of a Medical Condition?

Medical condition is a disability category on the TAFE Student Enrolment form. Students are encouraged to tick the disability box and to tick Medical Condition, if seeking support from a Teacher/Consultant. There is no need to disclose further details about the medical condition.

Students with a Medical Condition – some characteristics

- In a survey of people with a disability in vocational education and training in 2003, there were 15,367 students who reported that they had a medical condition, representing 16.8% of all students who reported a disability. (Source: NCVET)
- The most preferred fields of study for people with a medical condition were: mixed field programs, management and commerce, society and culture, and engineering and related technology.
- Just over two-thirds (68.6%) of students with a medical condition reported having a single disability. The remaining 31.4% reported multiple disabilities.
- In 2005, there were 5,866 students in TAFE NSW who reported a medical condition on the Enrolment Form. This represented 12.2% of all students who reported a disability.

Adjustments may need to be provided to enable a person with a disability to gain equitable access to education. Reasonable adjustments may include:

- modifying or providing equipment
- modifying assessment procedures
- changing course delivery
- modifying educational premises.

Adjustments must be determined in consultation with the student concerned.

For further advice contact your
TAFE NSW Teacher/Consultant

Other sources of support

Choosing Your Path—

Disclosure: It's a Personal Decision

<http://pubsites.uws.edu.au/rdlo/disclosure/>

Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission

www.hreoc.gov.au

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Disability Standards for Education 2005



Medical Condition Awareness

Some advice and strategies for teachers

TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW

What is a Medical Condition?

- A medical condition is a temporary or permanent condition that may be hereditary, genetically acquired or of unknown origin.
- The condition may not be obvious or readily identifiable to others, yet may be mildly or severely debilitating and may result in fluctuating levels of wellness and sickness, and/or periods of hospitalisation.
- Examples of medical conditions include, but are not limited to: HIV/AIDS, cancer, chronic fatigue syndrome, Crohn's disease, cystic fibrosis, asthma, diabetes, multiple sclerosis. (NCVER, 2002)
- As medical condition is a category of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992), students with a medical condition may be eligible for assistance from a Teacher/Consultant for students with a disability, and may be eligible for a TAFE fee exemption.

Positive interactions in the learning environment

Interacting with a person with a disability, including a person with a medical condition, should be characterised by respect for their rights to dignity, confidentiality and equity.

When communicating with people with a medical condition, it is important to acknowledge that they are people, students and colleagues first and foremost, not someone with an illness or medical condition. People with a medical condition may have periods of study interruption; and individual adjustments may be needed for course delivery location or delivery mode, or for assessment procedures.

Privacy and disclosure information

As with other types of disability, people with a medical condition have the right to privacy, and are not required to disclose their disability. People are encouraged to discuss any support needs with a Teacher/Consultant, who provides a confidential service to students with a disability.



Reasonable adjustments for students with medical conditions

The impact of a person's medical condition on learning, attendance or classroom participation can vary depending on prevalence and severity of the condition; associated medication administration; whether the condition is active or in remission; periods of absence for medical treatment or hospitalisation and recovery.

If assistance is required with arranging flexible attendance, and associated support, such as time available to complete a course or unit, modifying assessment procedures, or changing course delivery, students with a medical condition are encouraged to seek advice and support from a Teacher/Consultant for students with a disability.

Adjustments can include:

- Longer time to complete courses or exams.
- Modifications to an exam location
- Negotiate adjustments for periods of hospitalisation and recovery, eg a student receiving treatment for cancer may need recovery time at home for a period after treatment.