



## **Department of Education and Training: Inclusive Education Policy Statement**

The **Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians** declares that 'all Australian governments and all school sectors must provide all students with access to high-quality schooling that is free from discrimination based on gender, language, sexual orientation, pregnancy, culture, ethnicity, religion, health or disability, socioeconomic background or geographic location' (p.7).

Inclusive education ensures that schools are supportive and engaging places for all school community members. It builds communities that value, celebrate and respond to diversity. It is underpinned by respectful relationships between learners and school community members. It is supported by collaborative relationships with parents and communities through communication, learning partnerships, participation and consultative decision-making. Inclusive education means that every day in every classroom, every state school student is learning and achieving in a safe, supportive, inclusive and disciplined learning environment.

State schools:

- provide high-quality education for all students
- respond constructively to the needs of educationally disadvantaged/marginalised students
- view difference as a resource to support learning
- ensure that all school community members feel safe and free from discrimination, bias and harassment
- promote locally negotiated responses to student, family and community needs through effective community engagement processes and cross-agency collaboration
- ensure that inclusive education practices are embedded in all state schools policies and initiatives