

Information Sheet 2:

Planning ahead for successful support

This information sheet is designed to give you a general outline of the *processes* that you need to look at when planning for tertiary study. The information sheets complement the worksheets, which are designed to help you identify the *specific steps* that you need to follow in order to undertake tertiary study.

It is important that you plan ahead to ensure that you have services available to you while undertaking tertiary study. Use the five-step checklist below to assist you.

Services may include:

- study accommodations
- financial support through grants and scholarships or government payments
- childcare and after school care
- transport subsidies
- services provided by government and community agencies

Step One - Study accommodations

Make a short list of the courses that you are interested in studying and then identify the study accommodations that you might need.

Worksheet 2: Finding a course that's right for you and **Worksheet 4: Understanding your study requirements** will take you through the questions you need to ask.

Visit the student services office or disability service unit at the tertiary institution you are interested in attending to investigate the services, supports, schemes and programs that are available to students.

Worksheet 5: Questions to ask the Disability Liaison Officer or Student Support Officer and **Worksheet 7: Key questions** will take you through the questions you need to ask.

Step Two - Financial support

Contact Centrelink to find out if you are eligible to receive any government assistance, services or allowances. For example, Enhanced New Start Allowance, Disability Support Pension (DSP), Education Supplement or Abstudy.

Put your name down early for government funded supplementary services such as personal support.

Contact the Scholarships Office at the tertiary institution you are interested in attending to find out about scholarships and grants for students and for students with disabilities.

Contact the relevant service provider working with you and/or other specialist employment providers to find out if there is any financial assistance such as rebates or subsidies available.

To assist you to financially plan for tertiary study refer to **Worksheet 6: Financial planning**.

Step Three - Childcare and after school care

Will you need childcare and/or after school care for your child(ren)?

Contact the welfare office at your tertiary institution – they will have a list of childcare facilities in the local area.

The welfare office will also provide you with information on childcare rebate schemes that you may be eligible to apply for.

Contact your child's school about after school care programs.

Step Four - Transport subsidies

Find out from your government public transport provider if you are eligible for a transport subsidy scheme or public transport concession card.

Ask Centrelink if you are eligible to receive any government transport assistance or subsidy.

Contact your GP or health specialist to find out if you are eligible for a disability-parking permit.

Step Five - Government and community services

Talk to your GP, social worker, occupational therapist and/or service provider to identify services to support you while you are studying.

Visit your local community centre and speak to staff about programs and services that may be available in your local area.