



FLAGSTONE
State Community
College

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA) Year 11 and 12

This fact sheet provides information about the AARA process. The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) recognises that some students have disability, impairment and/or medical conditions, or experience other circumstances that may be a barrier to their performance in assessment. Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA) are designed to assist these students through minimising barriers for eligible students to demonstrate their learning, knowledge and skill in assessment.

Applications for known or pre-existing conditions must be submitted prior to the due date.

Applications for illness or misadventure on the day assessment is due, must be made on the due date. A medical report ***must be*** presented to support applications made due to illness, impairment or disability.

If an AARA is submitted late and/or not approved (e.g. due to lack of supporting evidence) **students may not receive any credit for the assessment item.** This will affect the student's overall result and may affect QCE eligibility.

Absence due to family holiday, sport (other than national representation) or other reasons chosen by the student or family do not constitute grounds for an AARA. Extensions or adjustments ***cannot*** be approved for these reasons.

QCAA stipulates:

- Year 11 AARA are school based decisions made in line with QCAA guidelines
- Year 12 AARA applications are submitted to QCAA for approval

Guidelines stipulate that schools make decisions about AARA for **Units 1 and 2 (Year 11)**. They ensure that for Applied, Applied (Essential) and General subjects, the AARA implemented for an eligible student for assessment in Units 1 and 2 are aligned to those that are available for summative assessment in **Units 3 and 4 (Year 12)**.

The provision of AARA for assessment in Units 1 and 2 by a school is not a guarantee that students will be provided the same access or the same adjustments for assessment in Units 3 and 4.

Eligibility for AARA

AARA are provided to minimise, as much as possible, barriers for a student whose disability, impairment, medical condition or other circumstances may affect their ability to read, respond to or participate in assessment. Eligibility barriers include Cognitive, Physical, Sensory and Social / Emotional.

These barriers fall into three broad categories:

- permanent
- temporary
- Intermittent

An AARA can also be applied for due to Illness, Bereavement or Misadventure.

Ineligibility

Students are not eligible for AARA on the following grounds:

- Unfamiliarity with the English Language
- Teacher absence or other teacher-related difficulties
- Matters that the student could have avoided (e.g. misreading an examination timetable, misreading instructions in examinations)
- Matters of the student's or parent's/carer's own choosing (e.g. family holidays)
- Matters that the school could have avoided (e.g. incorrect enrolment in a subject)

Important

Early applications for all AARA are recommended to ensure timely decisions and confidence for students.

- Applications submitted close to the due date for assessment should not be for known long-term conditions.
- Applications for AARA for long-term conditions should be submitted at earliest possible time upon diagnosis.

AARA forms for senior students can be downloaded from the school's website or are available from the Head of Senior School's office.