



Senior Schooling: Information for Parents

What is an AARA?

The QCAA recognises that some students may have disability, impairment and/or medical conditions or experience other circumstances that may affect their ability to read, respond to and participate in assessment. **Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA)** are designed to assist these students.

Access arrangements are action/s taken by the school so that a student with an eligible impairment that may not be covered by the definition of disability can access assessment.

Reasonable adjustments are action/s taken by the school so that a student with an eligible impairment as a result of a disability and/or medical condition and experiencing other circumstances creating a barrier to the completion of assessment can be assessed on the same basis as other students.

Every assessment accommodation made for Year 11 and 12 students is subject to an AARA application and requires approval through HOD Senior Schooling or Senior School Guidance Officer.

When should my student apply for an AARA?

In any of the following long-term or short-term circumstances, adjustments/ arrangements can be made to support students:

- Long-term and chronic conditions
- Mental health conditions, such as anxiety and depression
- Short-term conditions and temporary injuries
- Illness and misadventure.

What can be provided?

A wide range of adjustments and accommodations are available, the most common being extensions to due dates and extra time or rest breaks in exam situations. Applications require supporting documentation and provisions are made in alignment with QCAA's AARA guidelines and rules for eligibility.

Note that **supporting documentation** is required for an AARA application and that the following are not allowable grounds for an approved AARA:

- unfamiliarity with the English language
- matters that the student could have avoided, e.g. misreading an examination timetable, misreading instructions in examinations
- timetable clashes
- **matters of the student's or parent's/carers own choosing, e.g. family holidays, sporting events**

How can my student apply?

Any student/parent who feels these support provisions may be required, should meet with or contact the Senior Schooling Guidance Officer (long-term or intermittent conditions/ circumstances) or HOD Senior Schooling (short-term conditions/ Illness and Misadventure) as soon as possible and prior to the due date of impacted assessment.