

International Day of
People with Disability

Information Kit for Schools

International Day of People with Disability

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations day, observed each year on 3 December. In Australia, it is a day to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance of the 5.5 million people with disability in the country.

A key part of IDPwD each year are the events and activities that schools, workplaces and community groups hold to recognise the day.

Schools play an important role in creating a more inclusive and diverse community in Australia. This information kit has been developed to help schools get involved.

Did you know?[1]

- There are 5.5 million people with disability in Australia – that's 1 in 5 people.
- 15% of people in Australia aged 0-64 years have disability.
- 52% of people in Australia aged 65 years and over have disability.
- 7.9% of all Australians have a profound or severe disability.
- 9.9% or 1 in 10 people with disability in Australia have experienced discrimination.

For more information about disability statistics in Australia, visit the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

IDPwD theme

Each year, the United Nations announces a theme for IDPwD. The 2026 theme is: 'The CRPD at 20: Building on Progress, Advancing the Future'.

It's been 20 years since the United Nations (UN) agreed to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The CRPD is an agreement between different countries. It says that people with disability must have their rights respected.

The theme looks at what has improved over the past 20 years and what still needs to change.

It calls on governments and communities to:

- remove barriers for people with disability
- protect the rights of people with disability
- make our communities more accessible and inclusive.

You can use the official theme in your IDPwD activity or event. You can also develop your own theme around the topics of disability, diversity and inclusion.

The IDPwD website has more information, including an Easy Read version of the theme.

[1] Source: Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia survey 2022, Australian Bureau of Statistics www.abs.gov.au/disability

Ways your school can get involved

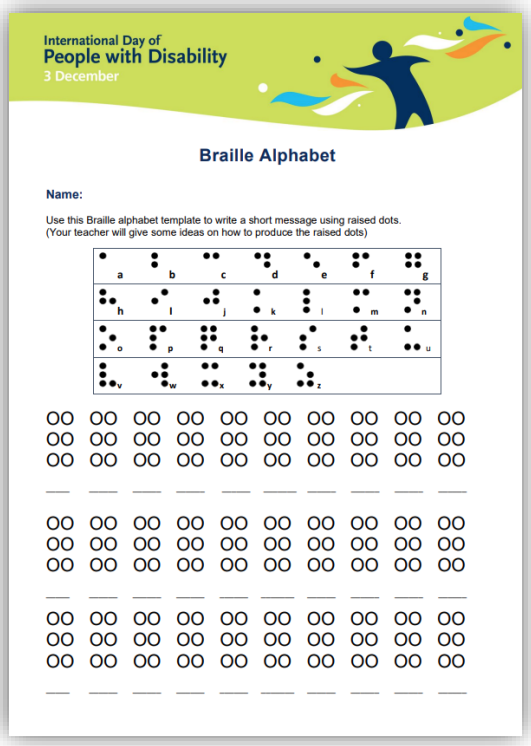
There are many ways your school can recognise IDPwD on 3 December and all year round. Your involvement can be big or small. We encourage you to get creative and acknowledge IDPwD in your own unique way.

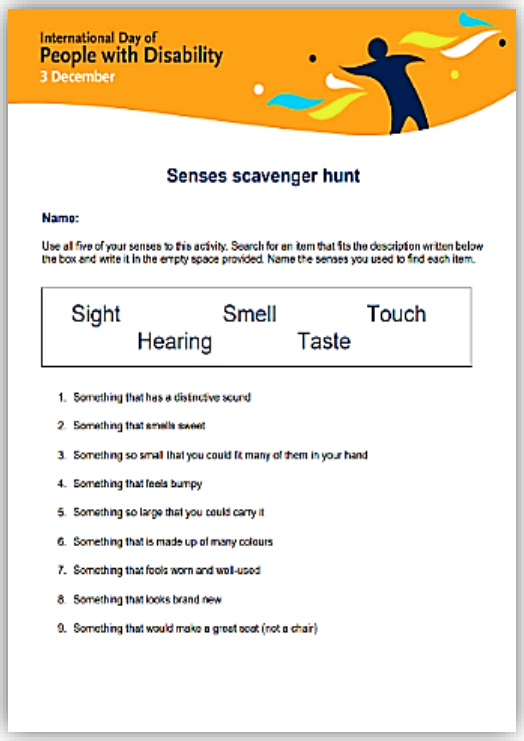
All resources listed below are available on the IDPwD School page.

IDPwD in the classroom

We have developed a range of resources for educators to incorporate disability themes and issues in the classroom:

- **Inclusion resources** – online resources to help educators apply inclusive practices in the classroom.
- **Classroom resources** – lesson ideas and activity sheets designed to start important conversations about disability and inclusion.
- **Printable assets** – interactive activities for students like a colouring-in poster, a chatterbox and make-your-own paperchain.
- **Stories of lived experience with disability** – encourage students to read or watch stories from our Ambassadors and people with disability in the community.





Host your own IDPwD event or activity

Holding events or activities is a great way to observe IDPwD and start inclusive conversations at school.

We encourage you to register your school's event, so we know about all the events happening across Australia. You can keep your event private or register as a public event and be featured on our community event calendar. To find out more, visit the Event Registrations page on the IDPwD website.

Here are some event ideas to get you started.

Creative competition

- Get students to submit artwork about what a diverse community looks like to them.
- Ask students to write a short article or essay about a person with disability in the community.

Film screening

- Host a screening of short films or videos that feature people with disability or disability themes.
- Check out previous IDPwD Ambassador videos to learn about their lived experience.

Decorate your school

- Put up posters and decorations for IDPwD around the school or classroom.
- You can create your own IDPwD designs or use the printable resources on the IDPwD website.

School assembly

- Organise a themed assembly for IDPwD and invite a guest speaker with disability from your community.
- You can also feature some of the IDPwD Ambassador videos.

School awards

- Acknowledge students, teachers and staff who are doing their part to create a more inclusive school environment.
- You can use the editable IDPwD Award Certificate or create your own template with your school's logo and colours.

If you can't hold an event or activity at your school, you can support other IDPwD events in your local community or online. Check out our community event calendar for events happening near your school.

Join the conversation

If you can't hold or attend an event, you can still get involved in IDPwD and help raise awareness in your school community. Here are some ideas:

- Explore our IDPwD Community Conversation Guide. It can help you discuss IDPwD and disability more broadly all year round. It has tips on inclusive language, themes for your IDPwD event and practical advice on communicating with people with disability.
- Post messages on your school's website or social media about IDPwD. Check out our online promotion kit for ideas to get you started.
- Learn more about IDPwD by using our fact sheets, which are available in 12 languages other than English, Auslan and Easy Read.
- Promote IDPwD in your online meetings and emails using our virtual meeting backgrounds and signature blocks.
- Follow or tag IDPwD on Facebook (@idpwd) and Instagram (@idpwd_au) to help spread stories about people with disability and be part of IDPwD all year round.
- Publish an article or acknowledgement in your school newsletter about IDPwD (see below).

Example newsletter

International Day of People with Disability with [School]

International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations day held on 3 December each year. It aims to increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability.

There are 5.5 million people with disability in Australia – that's 1 in 5 people. By recognising this day, we can promote inclusion in our classrooms and community.

This year [school] is recognising IDPwD by [insert details of your event or activity].

We encourage all students, families and carers to get involved this IDPwD. Together, we can challenge perceptions about disability, break down barriers and build a more inclusive community.

For more information, go to [your website address] or contact [your phone number/email address]. You can also visit our [Facebook page] for updates.

For more information about IDPwD, visit idpwd.gov.au.

More information

Visit idpwd.gov.au to find out more and access stories, videos and resources.

If you have any questions, you can:

- email us at idpwd@health.gov.au
- contact us at www.idpwd.gov.au/contact-us.