



**Australian Inclusive Publishing Initiative (AIPI) Submission in response to the Australian Government Disability Standards for Education 2020 Review**  
**25 September 2020**

**1. About AIPI**

The Australian Inclusive Publishing Initiative (AIPI) was launched in 2016 to foster a collaborative, consultative and consensus-based approach to tackling accessibility problems in Australia. Its members include representatives of the publishing industry, authors, agents, editors, designers, indexers, libraries, copyright organisations, disability associations, government and accessible-format providers. The aim of the AIPI is to increase access to published material for people living with print disabilities in Australia.

<https://aiipi.com.au/>

**2. AIPI’s interest in the Disability Standards for Education 2005**

AIPI is sympathetic to the overall task of ensuring appropriate disability standards across the spectrum of educational goals and tasks, and we point the review leaders to our particular interest and expertise in relation to the following section of the Disability Standards: Part 6 Standards for curriculum development, accreditation and delivery: 6.3.c Measures for compliance:

“the course or program study materials are made available in a format that is appropriate for the student and, where conversion of materials into alternative accessible formats is required, the student is not disadvantaged by the time taken for conversion”

We make the following comment: schools and universities are currently meeting the needs of print disabled students with large print, Braille and dyslexia-friendly books. This is wholly appropriate, but converting books to these formats is made expensive and time-consuming because student support services and disability publishers organisations have to retrofit accessibility at the end of the publishing process.

We wish to support standards and practices that encourage publishers to imagine and accommodate the need for accessibility at the outset of the publishing process. Inclusive publishing is where all books are born accessible. This is possible but requires changes throughout the production workflow. The publishing industry in Australia is world-leading in its approach to accessible books, and this work could be progressed faster with investment by government to the advantage of students and people living with a print disability.

## **Recommendation**

The *Disability Standards* do not reflect the opportunities presented by inclusive publishing to make books accessible-by-design for all students. While it is unlikely to merit a change in the *Standards* as part of the current review, we ask that the Australian Government acknowledge the potential of inclusive publishing to make a radical improvement to the experience of students living with print disabilities in the future.

APII and its members appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Review and welcome the relevant Reviewers to engage with us.

### **Contact:**

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