

Supporting Inclusive Schooling

The Integration Aide – A Handbook - Introduction

This Handbook is based on the combined wisdom and wealth of experience of many integration aides, school staff students and parents. The ideas and strategies suggest practical ways to facilitate real inclusion for students with disabilities.

This Handbook is not a set of Department of Education (DE) guidelines, although it is firmly based upon Victorian government policy and procedures for integration. There is no simplistic recipe for "how to do it" and we don't pretend to provide one. Some of our suggestions may sound "idealistic" to aides who often work in difficult situations. There are undoubtedly many constraints and pressures in schools which make undertaking all these suggestions far from easy. We provide some goals to work towards and ideas for those trying to improve their work practice towards greater inclusion of students with disability.

These materials will be useful for aides to "dip into" from time to time or to help solve a particular problem. It may even be useful to show other staff the information in this Handbook, to help them understand more about the role of the integration aide and the vital role of school staff in supporting aides to do their work more effectively.

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