



Schools' Guide to Special Provisions in ATAR Course Examinations 2023

Information for Case Coordinators

(Includes Equitable Access Adjustments [Special Examination Arrangements] and Sickness/Misadventure Consideration)

Guidelines

Please refer to the document *Equitable Access to Assessment Policy* for the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's (the Authority's) policy and guidelines on making adjustments (special examination arrangements) in the ATAR course examinations. The information provided in this document is specifically tailored to the ATAR course examinations and supplements the more general information in the guidelines.

This document also contains a section on sickness/misadventure consideration for the ATAR course examinations. While application for this consideration is a candidate's responsibility, they will often seek advice from a relevant person at school.

Principles to enable equitable access

The Authority recognises that for some students the impact of a disability or impairment may be a barrier to accessing an assessment to demonstrate their knowledge, understandings and skills.

For all assessments, the underlying principle is to provide students with the opportunity to participate in and complete their assessments in an equitable manner.

In relation to school assessments, schools should implement adjustments for school assessments based on the Authority's guidelines. Not all school-determined adjustments will necessarily apply to the assessments conducted by the Authority. A candidate may not demonstrate the need for adjustments in some assessments, or may need different adjustments in different assessments. Also, the adjustments needed by the student may change over time.

The principles that underpin these special equitable access provisions are:

1. The Authority will make adjustments for students where their access to an assessment is affected by disability, illness, impairment or personal circumstances.
2. Any adjustment must provide equivalent, alternative arrangements for candidates.
3. To maintain the academic rigour of the assessment and integrity of the credential, the same knowledge, understandings and skill requirements, and performance standards are applied to all candidates whether or not they are granted assessment adjustments.

4. Candidates whose capacity to participate in an assessment is adversely affected in a significant way by disability, illness, impairment or personal circumstances may be eligible to access appropriate, fair and reasonable alternative arrangements.
5. The adjustments made to an assessment are designed to facilitate access rather than remove or reduce the requirement to demonstrate the skill being assessed by the examination. Adjustments do not confer an advantage to any candidate over other candidates. If a requested adjustment confers an unfair advantage, an alternative adjustment may be offered.
6. The functional impact of the candidate's disability and its effect on accessing an assessment may vary over time and this will determine the level of adjustment approved.
7. Decisions about a candidate's eligibility for a specific adjustment in an assessment will be evidence-based and made by Authority staff and/or expert panels appointed by the Authority. A consistent approach to determining any adjustments is used for all students and every effort will be made to provide reasonable adjustments for eligible candidates.
8. This policy is established in accordance with the arrangements of the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* as amended in 2005 and the associated *Disability Standards for Education 2010* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)*.

Types of special provisions

There are two types of special provisions for the ATAR course examinations:

- Equitable access adjustments (special examination arrangements)
- Sickness/misadventure consideration.

Specific eligibility criteria apply for each form of special provision.

Equitable access adjustments for ATAR course examinations (special examination arrangements)

Candidates with a disability, illness or impairment are eligible to access appropriate, fair and reasonable alternative arrangements when it can be demonstrated that the condition prevents access to an assessment under standard conditions. There will be reasonable limits in determining the exact nature of those arrangements. Equitable access adjustments offer practical support to candidates through adjustments to standard conditions. Application is made prior to the examinations. Application can be for the written or practical ATAR course examinations.

There is an application form, which is completed by the school and submitted along with supporting documentation to the Authority by the specified date in March. Late applications will only be considered in extenuating circumstances if the diagnosis of a new disability/illness occurs after this date.

The Authority does not automatically adopt a medical/psychological provider's advice or replicate the adjustments that a school may have put in place for school-based assessment. The fact that a candidate has a disability/illness does not automatically entitle that candidate to adjustments. Each application is considered individually and adjustments provided depend upon the functional impact of the disability during timed assessments.

Eligibility criteria and possible adjustments are detailed in the equitable adjustments section.

Students with pre-existing conditions are expected to manage the condition in a suitable manner to improve their access to the examinations. This can include remediation or therapy designed to reduce the impact of the condition. When such action is not sufficient to provide reasonable access to the examination, the student may need to be supported through adjustments. Students with pre-existing or chronic conditions, including long term mental illnesses, do not have access to sickness/misadventure consideration, unless every attempt has been made to minimise the impact of the condition during the examination and there has been an unexpected acute episode unrelated to the examinations. Failure to apply for adjustments does not automatically entitle the student to sickness/misadventure consideration.

Sickness/misadventure consideration

Candidates who suffer from a temporary sickness, non-permanent disability or an unforeseen event close to or during the examinations which they believe may have resulted in performance below expectations or non-attendance in particular examinations are to be given the opportunity to apply for assessment consideration. Application is made by the candidate after the examinations.

Eligible candidates should make application on the sickness/misadventure form, which must be submitted direct to the Authority by the published due date, usually within one week of the last examination. Electronic applications are not accepted. No late applications can be accepted. Forms are not to be returned to schools or examination centres.

If the application is approved, then the Authority will calculate an examination mark using the applicant's school assessment as a basis.

Sickness/misadventure provisions are not available to non-school candidates.

Eligibility criteria are detailed in the sickness/misadventure section.

Equitable Access Adjustments for ATAR Course Examinations (Special Examination Arrangements)

Equitable access adjustments (special examination arrangements) for ATAR course examinations can only be made on the understanding that the aims of these examinations are to:

- statistically moderate numerical school assessments
- contribute to a score that is used to rank students for university entrance
- assist in the selection of students for Authority exhibitions and awards
- support public confidence in senior secondary schooling.

No candidate should be able to obtain an advantage over another candidate in the examinations except by having more knowledge, understanding, skill or ability relating to the course being examined.

Eligibility for equitable access adjustments (special examination arrangements)

Examinations for all candidates are conducted under standardised conditions, unless an adjustment has been deemed necessary by the Authority to accommodate impaired access to the examination caused by a disability. Candidates are eligible for special examination arrangements when it can be demonstrated that their capacity to access the examination is impaired due to:

- Hearing loss
- Physical disability or fine motor disorders
- Psychological or mental health disorders
- Severe health impairment
- Specific learning disorder
- Vision impairment.

Early engagement

The Authority encourages schools to engage with the Authority as early as possible to discuss any issues related to managing students (Years 7–11) who may be eligible for or require specific adjustment in the ATAR course examinations.

Early engagement allows schools to discuss interventions and implement appropriate adjustments for school-based assessments, in the years preceding ATAR course studies, to ensure they are consistent with equitable access adjustments likely to be approved for ATAR course examinations.

The application process

A candidate's application for equitable access adjustments is to be completed and submitted by their school by the deadline provided by the Authority. Non-school candidates may lodge their application directly to the Authority.

The Authority considers information from the candidate's school and medical practitioner, psychologist or other relevant health professional to determine the adjustments that may be

required. The manner and extent to which the disability/illness impairs the candidate's access to the examination will determine the appropriate adjustments. Some candidates with a disability/illness will not need equitable access adjustments to access their examinations.

Health professionals should consult the Authority's guidelines (Appendix 1 of the *Equitable Access to Assessment Policy*) before making recommendations about adjustments to standard conditions. Professional, educational and academic assessments and recommendations are considered on a case-by-case basis.

The school case coordinator will outline specific adjustments that have been made at school to cater for the impact of the student's disabilities that are preventing access to the standard assessment.

To enable an informed professional judgement, the Authority will contact the case coordinator should supporting information be incomplete or additional information is required.

Equitable access applications are considered under their disability categories. Assessment panels with expertise in the relevant disability and the education field apply consistent criteria to assess each application. Appropriate adjustments will be determined to accommodate the functional impact of the disability that impairs the candidate's access to the examination, as demonstrated by the evidence provided.

Following notification of the outcome of the application, several options are available should the case coordinator believe that the approved adjustments are not appropriate.

- A review process is only available to reconsider an application if new information has come to light since the original submission of application. This applies where there is a new diagnosis or deterioration in an existing diagnosis. Requests for a review are to be made by the case coordinator.
- An appeal may be made by the case coordinator should the school, student or parent not be satisfied with the decision made by the assessing panels, and there is no additional supporting information to consider. The appeal must cite evidence they believe has been overlooked by the panel in making their decision. Appeals are considered by a multi-disciplinary committee and must be received within 14 days of receiving a decision notification.

Roles and responsibilities within the equitable access adjustments process

What the school must do:

- Identify students with disability, illness or impairment who may be eligible for specific adjustments in their assessments
- Consider whether the student's request for equitable access adjustments is appropriate and consistent with the eligibility requirements
- Work with the student and parent to complete the relevant sections of the application
- Request any necessary documentation and evidence from the student/parent
- Consult with the Authority if unsure about appropriate arrangements
- Administer tests/essays where required and gather other relevant supporting evidence
- Complete the application for equitable access adjustments and submit to the Authority along with all supporting documentation as early as possible however this should be by the date

published in the Authority's *Activities Schedule*. (A fillable form is available on the Authority website, along with the standard printed version sent to schools.)

- Confirm with the student the approved adjustments and implement these in school assessments.

What the School Curriculum and Standards Authority will do:

- Based on evidence provided, make a decision for each of the examinations
- Advise the student and school of all approved adjustments
- Implement the approved specific adjustments during the ATAR course examinations.

In ATAR courses, the Authority recommends that schools implement specific adjustments consistent with those likely to be approved by the Authority for the ATAR course examinations. Adjustments implemented by the school that do not meet the eligibility criteria established by the Authority for equitable access adjustments for the ATAR course examinations, are unlikely to be approved. Schools should consult with the Authority if they are unsure about appropriate arrangements.

The Authority does not automatically accept a medical/psychological provider's advice or replicate the specific adjustment that a school may have put in place for school-based assessment. The reasons for this are:

- Each school applies its own policy for school-based assessments. This policy varies from school to school, cannot be controlled by the Authority and may be affected by factors not directly related to the level of disability of the student.
- The functional impact of a candidate's disability and its effect on accessing a particular assessment may vary. A candidate may not demonstrate the need for adjustments for some assessments, or may need different adjustments in different assessments. The adjustments needed may change over time.
- Medical/psychological providers are often not aware of the Authority's *Equitable Access to Assessment Policy*, the requirements of each examination and/or what types of equitable access adjustments are available and reasonable to assist with access to the examination.
- Medical/psychological providers vary in their recommendations as to the specific adjustments suggested for a given disability/illness. It would be inconsistent and potentially unfair to other candidates with a similar disability/illness for the Authority to simply follow each consultant's recommended adjustments.

Disability categories, appropriate adjustments and evidence requirements

The following is a guide to schools in their case management of students identified as having permanent or temporary disabilities/illnesses. Students are eligible for equitable access adjustments when it can be demonstrated that their access to an ATAR course examination is impaired by their condition. Generally, approved adjustments are not cumulative except for severe, multiple disabilities causing different impediments to access. Schools are encouraged to contact the Authority through the Early Engagement Process before implementing multiple arrangements or the highest level of adjustment for a disability where a range of possibilities are listed.

Candidates with severe hearing loss may be granted a supervisor who can answer questions relating to organisational matters or assist with vocabulary (oral/sign interpreter) during reading time. Oral instructions can be provided in writing. Other equitable access adjustments for candidates with hearing loss may be granted after consideration of the severity and demonstrated impact of the hearing loss in accessing the examination. Advice is sought from the School of Special Educational Needs – Sensory.

Candidates with severe vision-impairment may be granted a supervisor who can assist with the conduct of the examination. An oral reading of sections of the paper may also be granted to students who are severely vision impaired. Extra reading time, working time and/or rest breaks and use of magnification aids are arrangements that may be granted, depending on the severity and demonstrated impact of the impairment in the examination situation. Advice is sought from the School of Special Educational Needs – Sensory.

Candidates with specific learning disorders may be granted additional working time. Candidates needing reading support may be granted the use of a C-Pen Exam Reader. Applications must be supported by a school case-management history, current psychometric results, essays, and reading/written expression/mathematical results (as applicable) that indicate impaired access to the examination/s.

Candidates with mental health conditions may be granted out-of-order seating, permission to take medication, rest breaks or extra working time, or separate supervision. See the section on *Evidence for mental health conditions* for additional information. The adjustment granted will depend on the demonstrated level of impaired access to the examination/s.

Candidates with other medical conditions/physical disabilities may be granted adjustments listed in Appendix 1 of the *Equitable Access to Assessment Policy*, as indicated by supporting evidence of the severity of the condition and its impact impairing access to the examination/s. Most candidates with diabetes will be supported through provision of food/drink, monitoring of blood sugar levels (usually a Continuous Glucose Monitor [CGM], including a Smart Phone acting as a monitor) and access to medication if needed. All candidates using a CGM will be seated in the front row. Rest breaks should be requested only where a candidate has demonstrated the need for these on a regular basis to manage their condition.

Details of adjustments

Extra reading time may be granted for candidates who have vision impairment or hearing loss (demonstrating impaired language). The amount of additional time given will depend on the degree of impairment and the nature of the course. The maximum amount of additional reading time is ten minutes.

Rest breaks (non-working time) may be provided for candidates who are unable to sustain a sitting position or work uninterrupted for the duration of the examination, usually three hours. This could allow candidates to receive medical treatment, relax, stretch injured backs, refocus on the examination and so on. Rest time is calculated at the rate of five minutes per half hour, to a maximum of 25 minutes. No allowance is calculated for the last half hour. Rest breaks can be taken at the candidate's discretion, usually in blocks of no more than 10 minutes.

Extra working time may be granted for a candidate to complete the examination. In general, a maximum of 30 minutes for three-hour examinations (or the proportionate equivalent for shorter examinations) is granted, except for candidates with severe vision impairment or severe multiple physical disabilities, who may receive a further allowance of working time.

Discretionary time may be granted where the candidate's need is demonstrated not to be reasonably met by rest breaks, requires more flexibility than working time, or requires a combination of working and non-working time.

Paper modifications can be made to enlarge, translate into Braille or vary the colour for candidates with vision impairment. Other adjustments to the paper layout may be made to accommodate the impact of significant physical/fine motor disabilities or colour blindness.

Scribes may be appointed in cases of severe writing disability or physical disability. Where scribes are provided, extra working time is granted to allow for the dictation process. The role of the scribe is to record, in handwriting, the verbal responses as dictated by the candidate.

Computers may be granted for candidates with a permanent disability such as muscular dystrophy, which severely impairs handwriting and for whom no other provision has been shown to be effective. The use of spelling and grammar checkers and word counts are not allowed. Extra working time is not usually allowed. Poor handwriting is not considered a disability that necessitates a computer unless it results from a diagnosed disabling condition. A computer is not suited to examinations requiring equations or calculations. Braille-using students may be granted a braille computer and/or a computer with voice output in some courses.

Specialised supervision may be provided for a candidate who needs to sit in a separate room, at home or in hospital due to illness, injury or pregnancy.

Out-of-order seating may be granted for candidates who for medical reasons may need to leave the room frequently, sit near a window, at the front or rear of the room. This will rarely be necessary when allocated to an alternative examination room.

Food and/or additional drink needed because of a medical condition may be granted to be taken into an examination room. The food or drink must be in a clear wrapping or container.

Medication may be granted for candidates for the ongoing treatment of medical conditions such as diabetes, ADHD or chronic pain.

Specialised equipment such as a cushion, gloves, heat pack or ergonomic furniture or may be approved for candidates with special needs. All variations to standard examination equipment or furniture must be applied for. It is the candidate's responsibility to provide this equipment.

C-Pen Exam Reader with headphones may be granted for candidates needing reading support.

Supervisor's instructions in writing can be provided for candidates with hearing loss.

Alternative format practical examinations can be provided for candidates with a long-term injury/illness preventing participation in a standard format practical performance examination. The alternative format in **Physical Education Studies** will consist of video clips that will be analysed by the candidate then discussed with the markers. The alternative format in **Dance** will consist of choreography of an original solo composition in the genre of their choice which is taught to another dancer. The recording is brought to the examination on USB. The alternative format in **Music** will

consist of a research project on the development of their nominated instrument and analysis of two musical works.

Note: no allowance or equitable access adjustment is made for spelling difficulties.

Evidence required to support applications

Evidence is required firstly to establish eligibility to apply for adjustments; and then to determine the most appropriate arrangements for the candidate.

Specialist reports

Applications for equitable access adjustments must be accompanied by appropriate recent supporting medical, psychological or other relevant specialist reports. Templates are available to collect relevant information. Specialist reports should confirm the diagnosis and severity of the disability and describe the problems the candidate experiences in accessing the written and/or practical examination. The reports must be written by a suitably qualified, independent professional who has been involved in the management of the candidate's disability and who is not related to the candidate. Diagnosis of a disability in itself may not be sufficient to support an application for adjustments to standard conditions. The Authority reserves the right to request additional/updated evidence when it is deemed necessary by Authority officers.

For updated information related to Irlen Syndrome, case coordinators should read the *RANZCO Position Statement: Irlen Syndrome – 24 April 2018*. The paper produced by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) confirms that this condition is neither a vision impairment nor learning disorder. Therefore, support should be limited to use of a colour overlay or colour paper. The statement can be found on the RANZCO website at <https://ranzco.edu/news/no-scientific-evidence-that-irlen-syndrome-exists-say-ophthalmologists/>.

Case management history

Evidence of case management by the student's school is essential to support any request for adjustments. This should demonstrate the problems experienced by the student in accessing the written and/or practical examinations under standard conditions, outline the arrangements trialled in school examinations and comment on the effect of these arrangements on the student's achievement or access to the tasks.

Be aware that some disabilities (such as SLDs) will require at least six months' evidence-based specifically targeted intervention to be demonstrated prior to the official diagnosis. Adjustments to assessment conditions should not be provided until the formal diagnosis is confirmed.

Intervention history will also be relevant for most disabilities/health impairments. In many instances this intervention will reduce the functional impact of the initial condition observed in the student, and remove the need to apply for adjustments. A student's failure to engage with therapy or intervention may jeopardise an equitable access to assessments application.

The role of special equipment (ergonomic furniture, hand supports, special pens etc.) and therapy is important in assisting students with physical and fine motor disabilities. Case management should only move to higher levels of support after it is proven that these lower forms of support, including rest breaks, are not providing reasonable access to the tasks required in the examination.

The role of therapy is important in assisting students with mental health disorders. Applications will require a detailed statement from the managing clinical psychologist, or equivalent member of a mental health care team.

Applications will only be accepted from the nominated case coordinator of the student's school on the specific application form. The Authority will not accept direct applications from students, their families or independent professionals. All communication will be through the case coordinator.

Non-school candidates may make direct application to the Authority, where they are not also studying any courses through a school.

Evidence for learning disorders

Candidates seeking additional working time on the basis of a specific learning disorder are required to provide the results and analysis of psychometric assessments conducted by a registered psychologist, along with essays and other evidence conducted at the school. If the learning disorder relates to reading, additional evidence of reading comprehension ability is required. Templates are available to collect relevant information.

For the purpose of special examination arrangements, the following definition of learning disorder is used:

Students with a learning disorder will have reading, written expression or mathematics skills significantly below expectation in relation to their present year level. Evidence of a processing impairment, frequently phonological in nature, will be present. Learning disabilities are presumed to be intrinsic to the individual and long term, with the student failing to respond as expected to evidence-based targeted intervention. A psychologist has determined that these difficulties are not considered to be the direct result of intellectual disability, physical disability, sensory impairment, or a primary emotional difficulty. Neither do they appear to derive directly from inadequate environmental influences, or from the lack of an appropriate educational experience.

Psychologists may make professional judgements on the tools to be used to assist in the assessment of a student's learning disorder. The following, however, are the assessments recommended:

- cognitive ability: WISC V, WAIS IV, WJ III or IV
- phonological processing – CTOPP
- standardised academic achievement tests in reading and/or writing (with Australian norms)
- other assessments: Other assessment tools may also be appropriate for analysing learning disabilities. Results must be fully explained.

Where a student is applying on the basis of a reading disability, the *Progressive Achievement Test in Reading (PAT-R) Comprehension 4th Edition* (ACER Press, 2008) must be administered **by the school** in the year of application. Online and outdated test versions are **not** suitable. The results of the *York Assessment of Reading for Comprehension* (YARC) or other reading tests administered, if available, can also be submitted as additional evidence and will be considered by the assessing panel.

The provision of equitable access to assessments adjustments on the grounds of writing problems within the context of specific learning disabilities will be considered only where such disabilities can be documented and substantiated to impair reasonable access to recording examination responses.

Essays

All students applying for extra working time, discretionary time, a scribe or a personal computer on the basis of any impairment must provide essay evidence completed during the year of application. All essays are to be administered under test conditions as described in detail on the application form.

Essay one is handwritten under controlled conditions, using the topic provided by the Authority. Strictly five minutes reading time and 35 minutes writing time are to be provided. The candidate is to change ink colour after working for 30 minutes. No special arrangements are to be used.

Essay two is a photocopy of an essay (usually handwritten) from an assessment that the student has recently completed in a class test or examination. Special arrangements may be used. The essay must be marked with comments and grading indicated. Essay details (including topic, time taken, number of words written, date, special arrangements used) are to be recorded on the cover sheet. Short answer tasks are not suitable.

A typed or scribed essay is required (in addition to the handwritten essays) if a candidate is applying for the use of a computer or scribe. The topic will be provided by the Authority and strictly five minutes reading time and 30 minutes typing time are to be provided (for a scribed essay, 35 minutes scribing time is allowed). The computer is to have spelling and grammar checks disabled. No other special arrangements (e.g. extra time) are to be used.

Schools must request the confidential essay topics from the examination logistics section of the Authority. Essays must be completed at school under examination conditions. The supervising teacher must remain with the student for the duration of the essay to observe and record the student's performance on the relevant coversheet.

Procedures for equitable access adjustments (special examination arrangements)

1. **Submission of applications.** The closing date in March is specified on the application form. The application form and supporting documentation is received by the Principal Consultant – Special Provisions. Late applications will be considered only under extenuating circumstances. This includes emergency provisions for candidates who have an accident just prior to the examinations. Arrangements can be made if time allows.
2. **Categorisation of applications.** To facilitate equitable decision making, the applications will be sorted by disability type. The forms are confidential and will be retained securely.
3. **Assessment by specialists.** The forms will be assessed within disability type by a pair of specialists.
4. **Determination of adjustments.** Each application is considered on an individual basis. The assessors will consider the impact of the disability on the student's performance in an external examination. In making their decision, the assessors will follow the principle of making allowance for the disability without providing advantage over other students.
5. **Notification of approval.** The school and chief supervisor of the candidate's examination centre will be informed of the approved arrangements. It is the school's responsibility to discuss these with the candidate. Students can access the *Notification of Approved Equitable Access Adjustments* from the Student Portal.

6. **Review of arrangements.** Any request for a change to the approved adjustment/s must be submitted via email by the student's school. A review can be requested if additional evidence has become available that could not have been provided with the application, there is a significant change in the student's condition or the student wishes to reduce arrangements.
7. **Appeal.** A school can appeal against the decision made by the assessing panels. Appeals will be considered by an independent group. The decision of this group is final.
8. **Arrangements put into place.** The candidate will sit the ATAR course examination and all other assessments under the approved conditions.

Hints for Completing an Application for Equitable Access to Assessment Arrangements (Special Examination Arrangements)

The following suggestions are made to assist case coordinators at schools with completing an application for equitable access adjustments. Applications are required for **any** candidate who needs to sit the ATAR course examinations under **any non-standard arrangement**. This includes access to any special equipment, seating or examination conditions, for the **practical** or **written** examination. Standard examination conditions and approved equipment are explained in the *Year 12 Information Handbooks*. Application forms must **not** be sent home for completion.

Note: as changes are made to the application form and some processes each year, ensure you understand and follow the process in place for the **current** year.

General hints

Start early

Case management is a vital part of managing the education for a student with a disability. The school, student and parents should work together to implement appropriate remedial strategies or therapy while there is time for success. In most circumstances, at least six months evidence-based targeted intervention should be demonstrated. Many of these students will then not need special examination adjustments. Year 10 is a good time to implement specific training in examination technique strategies. For many students, these need to be specifically taught.

Remember that not all students with a disability (past or current) will need adjustments or meet the eligibility requirements for them. Make this clear to students and parents right from the start. Do not simply replicate what has occurred in the past or accept hearsay evidence – this has been a basis for disappointment in many cases. Assess the situation in line with current documentation and current policy, then case-manage from a point of fact. What may have been approved for a sibling or other students in the past may no longer be appropriate.

Start with a diagnosis

The diagnosis of a disability must be clear and current. It must be made by a person with professional credentials relevant to the disability and not related to the student. Where relevant, the diagnosis must meet with appropriate professional standards, e.g. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition* (DSM-V) criteria. The impact of the disability in an examination situation must be clearly explained, and relate to the individual courses being undertaken. The disability may affect only the written examination, only the practical examination, or both. Be clear

about the difference between a learning disorder (rare) and a learning difficulty (much more common). Students experiencing **difficulties** do not meet the eligibility criteria for equitable access adjustments (special examination arrangements). While a written diagnosis is essential to enter the process, no adjustments will be approved on the basis of a diagnosis alone. Assessment conditions should not be altered unless the school has proof of the diagnosis to support the trial of special adjustments.

Gather evidence

Start early in organising assessments and collecting professional reports. Remember specialists do have periods of unavailability. The Authority's decision will be made on evidence presented at the time of application. The final decision will be made by looking at the **current functional impact** of the disability on the student in an examination situation. Evidence will include standardised testing and academic information gathered by the school (e.g. PAT-R comprehension, essays).

Be realistic

When making arrangements at school level, examine the evidence and recommendations provided by external consultants and compare it with the Authority's *Equitable access to assessment policy*. If there is a discrepancy, investigate, communicate and negotiate. Remember the Authority does not replicate arrangements made by a school if the student does not meet eligibility criteria. Check the documents on the website to guide your decision making. Few students qualify for multiple adjustments. You may need to trial a number of adjustments (commencing with the lowest level of support), then decide on which is the most reasonable for each course. Make it clear to the student and parents that, until an adjustment has been approved by the Authority, any accommodations are interim arrangements and subject to change. Many schools do this in writing to avoid any false expectations. Adjustments are not provided to maximise a student's performance.

Check currency of evidence

The definition of 'current' will vary with the type of disability. For example, a hand injury during Year 11 may be recovered by Year 12, so its diagnosis will no longer be current. However, a specific learning disorder diagnosed in Year 8 or autism diagnosed as a child will still be current – but the information related to **functional impact** will need to be updated. All students applying for an SLD will need a functional literacy/numeracy assessment, relative to their specific SLD, conducted in Year 10 or later.

Generally, for students with fine motor disorders, physical disability, health impairments, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders or mental illnesses, functional impact evidence should be collected in the year of application, or late in the previous year. It should be no more than six months old at the time of application. A template is available for health professionals to record relevant information.

If the disability results from a degenerative condition, it is in the student's best interest to ensure the medical evidence is as recent as practical, i.e. usually in the year of application. If the disability is of a variable nature, or was reported to be improving, no arrangements can be made without recent medical evidence of its severity and impact.

Present a complete case

Make it easy for the assessors to say yes. Applications are made by the school, but often the evidence is held by the family. Ensure the parents have provided **all** the relevant information.

Parents withholding pieces of information has been a common cause for applications to be declined when submitted to the Authority. Reassure parents that all information is treated with the utmost confidentiality, and is not provided to examination centres or third parties. Nothing should be held 'in reserve' – i.e. intended for use only if the first request is denied. Also be sure to present a true picture, including the strengths of the student. Candidates will not always need support in every course examination. Application forms must **not** be sent home to be completed.

Respect deadlines

These exist for the benefit of the students. It is in your student's interest to get a decision as early as possible; however, as every application is assessed individually, this takes time. Your completed applications cannot be processed until after the school has uploaded its enrolments. Ensure any non-Year 12 students and non-school candidates for whom you are applying are enrolled correctly before applying for them. Check the *Activities Schedule* on the Authority website for the last date for the various categories of enrolments. Applications (if complete) are processed in order of receipt, so it pays to be in the top of the stack for a prompt response. Incomplete applications cannot be assessed, so please do not send them until missing information is available; they will be returned or go to the bottom of the stack while awaiting information. The closing date for applications is stated on the application form. All applications relating to pre-existing conditions need to be submitted before the specified closing date. After this date applications are only accepted where there are extenuating circumstances, e.g. a newly diagnosed medical condition. (Failure to diagnose a learning disorder until after the deadline is not generally an extenuating circumstance. Neither is changing one's mind about wanting support.) From the end of Term 2, applications can be considered **only** for emergency provisions, such as for candidates who have been injured just before the examinations.

If the application is for extra working time, discretionary time or the use of a scribe or computer, you will need to request essay topics using the phone number provided on the form. Ensure you allow enough time for this process, and for the student to complete the essays. You do not need to mark the essays we set. Check page 5 of the application form to confirm the requirements for the essays. Remember to provide an accurate word count for each essay.

Students with a long-term injury or illness preventing participation in standard practical (performance) examinations

This situation is most likely to affect candidates of Physical Education Studies or Dance, but could potentially also affect candidates of Music. If the student has an injury or illness that exists at the start of Term 3, and that illness/injury will prevent him/her taking part in the standard practical examination, an application for a special format practical examination **MUST** be submitted. **This is not discretionary**. These students are **not** covered under sickness/misadventure provisions. Failure to apply for a special format practical examination could jeopardise their achievement of a WACE and impact on their ATAR. Applications can be accepted up to 26 July, but earlier application should be made where the situation is known sooner, e.g. for reconstructive surgery early in the year. Do not apply at the beginning of the year 'just in case'! Be sure of your facts and seek medical substantiation for the condition prior to the July deadline. There can be no changes after 26 July to the form of practical examination the candidate is to undertake.

Remember diabetic students and those with medical conditions

While not strictly having a disability, we need to receive applications for all diabetic students to ensure they have access to what they need to maintain their health during the examinations. This also applies to students with other illnesses needing medication (such as ADHD or migraine), or conditions needing special equipment or out-of-order seating. If a diabetic student needs to monitor blood glucose levels, the application will need to specify if this is done manually or through continuous glucose monitoring (CGM), including via a Smart Phone.

Who should complete the application form?

Most information relates to the student's performance in an examination situation, therefore someone from the school must complete the form. The person responsible will vary from school to school, but is most often the deputy principal, Year 12 coordinator, special needs coordinator, counsellor or school psychologist. The Authority refers to this person as the **case coordinator**. All communication from the Authority will be via the case coordinator. **It is the case coordinator's responsibility to discuss the outcome of the application with the student.** The case coordinator will need access to SIRS to obtain details of decisions made by the Authority.

While the case coordinator will coordinate the completion of the form, information may come from the English teacher (essays) and other staff as needed and also from external allied health consultants or doctors. A template is available for use of health professionals. Where possible, enter all school-based information directly onto the form. The student will need to independently complete his/her comment in handwriting and sign the form. Get them to do this at school and limit their statement to the space provided. Ultimately, the school principal is responsible for the application and will sign the declaration, but he/she may delegate this responsibility. The form must **not** be sent home for completion.

Only **non-school** candidates may submit their application or supporting evidence directly to the Authority.

You may use the lilac coloured application form that was distributed to schools in January with associated templates available on the website. Alternatively, use the interactive (fillable) form available on the Authority website, that contains links to all associated templates.

Please do **not** return Section G (pages 7 and 8) when submitting an application. Keep these for your reference.

Keep a copy

Remember to keep a **full copy** of the completed application form and all associated attachments. This will facilitate discussion with the Authority or preparation of a review of adjustments if a student's situation changes. Applications cannot be returned or copies provided after submission. Ensure all students can access the Student Portal to obtain adjustment notifications. Students may require a copy of their approval notification for university/TAFE purposes, so please ensure they keep a printed copy. It is a family's responsibility to keep their own copy of any documentation provided to the school for the application process.

Students will also require a copy of their *Personalised examination timetable* for the written and practical examinations. These will be available from the Student Portal in September. Refer to the *Activities Schedule* for exact date of release.

Specific hints for completing the application form

Complete all relevant sections for the disability type pertaining to the student. Other pages can be left blank. If printing the form from the Authority website, only print off the relevant pages.

Section A – Student details

Check the student number before entry. Use only the Authority's WA student number (WASN) allocated to the student.

Mark only those courses for which adjustments are requested. For many students this is **not** all that they are enrolled in. Do **not** include General courses.

Reason for application – more than one disability may be selected. (Indicate which one is the major disability.)

Section B – Provisions requested

Select only from the section related to the student's disability type. This is to be completed at school and must **not** be sent home for completion.

Ensure requested provisions meet with eligibility criteria and are supported by professional diagnoses and functional impact evidence.

If a request does not apply to all courses listed in Section A, then name the course for which it is needed.

Be discriminating when selecting provisions – this is not a 'wish list'. Read Section G on pages 7 and 8 of the form **before** selecting the provisions in Section B. **If you request provisions that cannot be approved, this will significantly delay the response to your application.**

Section C – School case coordination

This section is essential to build a picture of the functional impact of the disability on the student in examination situations. Student's comments must be hand written (or dictated) by the student. Restrict these comments to the space provided (an attachment is not required), and focus on timed assessments.

The school provisions section must reflect the need for those provisions being requested in each course for which it is sought. Restrict your comments to the examination situation. The format of different examinations will vary, and therefore the difficulties experienced by some students to access the examination may vary. You may need to attach an additional statement to clearly demonstrate the student's needs in individual courses.

As all communication from the Authority will be via the case coordinator, **ensure your email address is clear and accurate.** Authority staff also often need to discuss a student's needs, so case coordinator contact details will assist this to be done efficiently. A direct line or mobile phone number is best, along with details of any restrictions to availability. Emails work well for those with restricted phone access.

Intervention history will strengthen the case, especially for a specific learning disorder or other condition likely to respond to therapy. Applications where there has been no attempt at targeted remediation for a specific learning disorder or fine motor disability are rarely successful. It is also

important to show if particular strategies were unsuccessful and why. Do **not** include details of meetings, or strategies used for your whole cohort. Individual education plans are not needed, nor are school reports.

Section D – Student and principal declarations

This section is essential and the form will not be processed without both signatures. (A non-school candidate will need only their own signature.)

If the school principal (or delegate) cannot agree to the full application, the relevant clause may be deleted and initialled or a note of explanation attached. The Authority is mindful of the need to make adequate arrangements for a student, without providing advantage.

Section E – Supporting information – including templates for health professionals

The impact of the impairment on the student in an examination situation is important. If the student's condition is particularly rare, inclusion of a fact sheet is useful. Remember to specify whether the student is also needing adjustments for a practical examination and be specific about the adjustment required. To facilitate collection of this information, a template (with coversheet) is provided for the use of health professionals.

Medical evidence

If access to medication is requested during an examination, it must be supported by a medical practitioner. If any prescribed medications have side effects likely to impact on the student during the examination, this should be described.

Writing

Handwriting results are important if the student is applying for any provision on the basis of a handwriting disability, whether resulting from either a physical or fine-motor disability, medical condition or other impairment. This is usually completed by an occupational therapist, but in certain situations may be completed by a psychologist. An assessment of handwriting speed under cognitive load (reported in wpm) is essential. Typing results are vital if the student is seeking the use of a computer. If applying for extra working time, discretionary time, a scribe or computer, an occupational therapist's review within six months of application is needed. This should contain information related to diagnosing the disability, remediation history and describing the current functional limitations of the disability in an examination situation.

Note: in an examination situation, students put considerable time and effort into interpreting, planning, editing etc. Therefore, their expected written output is significantly less than a clinically administered writing task such as the DASH.

Poor handwriting is not considered a disability that necessitates a personal computer; neither does a student's preference for the use of a computer.

Psychometric testing (Psychometric results template)

Psychometric test results are vital for applications related to a specific learning disorder. Enter all requested information onto the template.

Psychologist's reports are sometimes lengthy, with the important information difficult to identify. Where possible, psychologists should keep reports succinct as they are read by fellow psychologists. Make it easy for the assessors to approve the application by presenting the requested information where they can see it at a glance. The assessors will read the report too, but the summary table will assist them to do that easily. Diagnosis of a specific learning disorder cannot be made on a cognitive ability assessment alone. The academic skills test results, and other information, is equally important. For many students, the CTOPP is vital to show the nature and level of disability. For a list of frequently provided tests, please see the end of this document.

Recent functional impact information must be provided for any candidate diagnosed with an SLD prior to Year 10. This must demonstrate the current severity and indicate the residual impact of the disability that may impair reasonable access to the examination/s.

Psychometric results are not generally necessary for students with other disabilities. If in doubt phone the Principal Consultant – Special Provisions, as such tests are expensive and families do not appreciate being put to unnecessary effort or expense.

Essays

These provide a picture of the student's ability to write in a timed situation. Remember to request the topics in sufficient time to complete this requirement. Instructions are on the application form, and additional information is provided on the essay topic cover sheet. Teacher feedback recorded on the cover sheet is very useful to the assessors. The word count, including words crossed out, must be accurate (not an estimate). For consistency, all essays will be assessed by a trained marker.

Reading results (PAT-R results template)

Reading results are needed if the student is applying for extra time or other supports on the basis of a reading disability. The school must conduct the comprehension test of the *PAT-R 4th edition* (ACER 2008) and record results on the template. This edition has Australian norms to Year 10 level. As the new version of this test has been in use since 2008, earlier versions are no longer accepted. The onscreen version must **not** be used as it does not replicate the demands of the paper-based ATAR course examinations. The *PAT-R* is best administered by a teacher; it does not need a registered psychologist.

Information about accuracy, comprehension and rate of passage reading in a timed situation is also useful and can be recorded on the reading results template.

Modified paper requirements

This section is **ONLY** required for students needing modifications to the printed format of any written or practical examination. This is usually students with a physical disability or vision impairment. It is usually completed by the relevant specialists. For students with vision impairment this will be the visiting teacher from the School of Special Education Needs: Sensory. Please check to see if the student is completing an examination with optional sections or specified contexts, such as Modern History or Music. Specify clearly which sections or contexts the student will complete as only those sections will be modified. Samples of some modifications are required – refer to page 9 of the form for details. Remember to specify if the candidate is also seeking adjustments for stimulus materials used in a practical examination.

What happens next?

The case coordinator will receive email confirmation of the applications received. Receipt of the application will not be acknowledged until the application is ready for assessment. If the application is incomplete, it will be returned to the school or the case coordinator contacted prior to acknowledgement.

If essays have been submitted as part of the application, these will be sent to a specially trained assessor.

Applications will be sorted and assessed according to the category of disability.

Each application will be considered individually. Only complete applications will be assessed. If there is missing information, the application will be returned or held until all information is received. This can cause a significant delay in receiving a decision. If the requested information is not received within the specified timeframe, the application will be declined.

The case coordinator will receive an email notification when a decision is available from SIRS. The case coordinator must discuss the outcome with the student and ensure they understand the full implications of the approved arrangements. It will also be their responsibility to inform students how to access their notifications and supporting documents from the student portal.

If the student does not agree with the special arrangements approved, they should discuss the matter with their case coordinator. The Authority is not able to discuss details of applications with parents or external contributors.

If the case coordinator at the school does not agree with the special arrangements approved, they should discuss the issue with the Principal Consultant – Special Provisions. If there is additional evidence to support a change of arrangements, the school may request a **review** of the application. There should be a valid reason why the additional evidence was **not** presented at the time of the application. This is not an open invitation to seek additional information from new sources, nor to object to the decision made for every unsuccessful application. The early deadline for applications is at the request of schools to allow students more time to adjust to any changes in their approved adjustments.

If the school objects to the original decision made by the assessors but there is no additional information to provide, they may appeal the decision. The role of the independent appeals committee is to consider cases without additional evidence or requests falling outside special provisions policy. The decision of the appeals committee is final. Appeals should be submitted in writing (email is acceptable) to the Principal Consultant – Special Provisions by the date specified in the original email to schools.

The student will sit all school-based assessments under the approved conditions. It is essential that this occur immediately on receipt of the Authority's decision. Any delay in changing the conditions may cause disadvantage to the candidate.

In early September the student will download a *Personalised examination timetable* showing the centre at which each examination will be sat. This should be **checked carefully** on receipt. If there is any discrepancy between the centre appearing on the timetable and the arrangements specified in the approval notification this should be discussed **immediately** with the Principal Consultant – Special Provisions. Changes to examination centres or conditions cannot be made after the date

specified on the application form. Candidates presenting at the wrong examination centre may not be able to receive their approved arrangements.

The ATAR course examination is sat under the approved conditions. Candidates should present their approval notification to the supervisor at the examination centre for each examination in addition to their *Personalised examination timetable*.

Students should **keep** their approval notification as it may be required when enrolling at TAFE, university or for the STAT test through TISC. It is recommended that students make copies to ensure the availability of the document for later purposes as the student portal will remain accessible for a limited period. Copies may not be available from the Authority at short notice.

Frequently used tests

Specific Learning Disorders

Note: appropriate tools should be chosen by the educational psychologist according to the student's suspected disability, age and weaknesses identified in prior testing. The following is a list of tests the Authority assessors most often see in supporting the case for a specific learning disorder.

Cognitive ability

The preferred assessments are WISC V or WAIS IV. If alternative tests are used, such as WJ III or IV, the results must be fully explained, and results be recorded on the psychometric summary table template. Tests should be administered according to standard protocols. Where alternative sub-tests are used, their choice should be explained.

Phonological processing

CTOPP (Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing)

CELF-5 supplementary tests PA/RAN (Often done by a speech pathologist)

Standardised achievement tests – in reading, written expression, spelling, handwriting, as needed

Reading

TOWRE (Test of Word Reading Efficiency)

GORT 4 (Gray Oral Reading Test 4)

Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests – Revised

WIAT III (Wechsler Individual Achievement Test 2nd Edition)

YARC (York Assessment of Reading Comprehension)

Written Expression

OWLS (Oral and Written Language Scales)

WIAT III

TILLS (Test of Integrated Language and Literacy Skills)

Spelling

WIAT III

South Australian Spelling Test (revised)

Note: no adjustments are provided for spelling difficulties.

Handwriting

Detailed Assessment of Speed of Handwriting (DASH) or (DASH17+)

The Handwriting speed test (HST) by Wallen, Bonney & Lennox (Of limited use. Occasionally relevant if done by an OT for a student with a significant physical disability.)

Developmental Coordination Disorder/Motor Dysgraphia

Note: appropriate tools should be chosen by the occupational therapist according to the student's suspected disability, age and weaknesses identified in prior testing. The use of standardised assessments is recommended. The following is a list of tests the Authority assessors often see in supporting the case for a fine motor disorder. The choice of optional assessments will assist in identification, intervention and remediation of skill deficiencies. The templates for collection of evidence should be used where possible.

Essential

Detailed Assessment of Speed of Handwriting (DASH) or (DASH17+)

The Handwriting Speed Test (HST) by Wallen, Bonney & Lennox

Typing speed test (if requesting a computer)

Clinical Observations (Jean Ayres, 1972)

Samples of written work completed in class, preferably under timed conditions

Optional

The Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration – 6th Ed (VMI)

The Beery VMI Developmental Test of Visual Coordination – 6th Ed

The Developmental Test of Visual Perception – 6th Ed

Developmental Test of Visual Perception – 2nd Ed (DTVP-2) or (DTVP-A)

Test of Visual Perceptual Skills – 3rd Ed (TVPS-3)

Movement ABC-2 (MABC-2)

Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency – 2nd Ed (BOT-2)

Pain Scale

Jamar dynamometer

Pinch strength tests

Language Disorder

Note: appropriate tools should be chosen by the speech pathologist according to the student's suspected disability, age and weaknesses identified in prior testing. The following is a list of tests the Authority assessors often see in supporting the case for a language disorder.

Cognitive ability (assessed by a psychologist)

The preferred assessments are WISC V or WAIS IV. If alternative tests are used, such as WJ III, the results must be fully explained, and results be recorded on the psychometric summary table template. Tests should be administered according to standard protocols. Where alternative sub-tests are used, their choice should be explained.

Language processing

Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF) 5

Test of Integrated Language and Literacy Skills (TILLS)

Mental Health Conditions

Note: appropriate tools should be chosen by the mental health practitioner according to the student's suspected disability, age and presentation identified in prior consultations. Mental health professionals should consult the document *Special Examination Arrangements for Mental Health Conditions* on the Authority website before making recommendations. The following is a list of tests the Authority assessors might consider in supporting the case for diminished executive functioning that cannot be reasonably assisted by rest breaks. The templates for collection of evidence should be used where possible. The evidence may include:

Results of a Developmental Neuropsychological Assessment (NEPSY) administered by a suitably qualified health professional (students aged 3–16); and/or

Results of a Behaviour Rating Inventory of Executive Function (BRIEF) administered by a suitably qualified health professional (students aged 5–18); and/or

Evidence of student's decline in performance from the school providing student results or essays pre- and post- the onset of the mental health conditions; school observations and history of other provisions (specifically rest breaks) being trialled unsuccessfully for a reasonable period (usually six months).

Guidelines for Sickness/Misadventure Provisions

Candidates who suffer from a temporary sickness, non-permanent disability or an unforeseen event close to or during the examinations, which they believe may have resulted in performance below expectations or non-attendance in particular examinations, can apply for assessment consideration. Application is made to the Authority after the examination(s).

Eligible candidates should make application on the sickness/misadventure form which must be submitted to the Authority by the published due date, usually within one week of the last examination. No late applications can be accepted.

If the application is approved, the Authority will calculate an examination mark using the applicant's school assessment as a basis.

Sickness/misadventure arrangements are not available to non-school candidates.

In general, students should sit examinations if possible, although not against specific medical advice given within two weeks of the examination. Attendance at an examination will not prejudice any application. However, non-attendance at an examination where the sickness/misadventure claim is declined may have a detrimental impact on the student's achievement of the WACE requirements.

Eligibility

Applications must relate to sickness or misadventure that occurred during the examinations, or up to two weeks before the commencement of the student's first written examination, and must have affected their performance in an examination or caused their non-attendance at an examination. For candidates undertaking practical performance examinations, such as Physical Education Studies or Dance, this includes a severe injury sustained after the start of Term 3, but still existing during the practical examinations. This will typically be for candidates who have completed at least the first semester of the course and for whom the school has a practical mark.

Submission of applications for sickness/misadventure consideration is a candidate responsibility.

Applications may be made in respect of:

- sickness or physical injuries suffered directly by the candidate, e.g. influenza, an asthma attack, or a lacerated hand at the time of the examination
- accidents or other events beyond the candidate's control, e.g. the death of an immediate family member during the current year, significant disruption at the examination centre, or a faulty examination paper
- competing or umpiring in a recognised sport or cultural event at national or international level that conflicts with a **practical examination only**.

The provisions of the policy do not apply to:

- matters relating to long-term loss of preparation time and claimed inadequacies of teaching
- matters that could have been avoided by the candidate, e.g. misreading of the timetable

- long-term illnesses such as asthma, epilepsy and mental illness, unless there is evidence of an acute episode of the illness during the examination caused by an event not related to the examination (chronic illness itself will not be approved)
- long-term injuries or illnesses where the candidate was required to submit an application for a special format practical performance examination
- the same grounds for which equitable access adjustments (special examination arrangements) have been made, unless there is evidence of additional difficulties during an examination
- matters relating to the school assessment in a course
- attendance at a sporting or cultural event during written examinations
- adverse weather conditions during a Physical Education Studies practical examination
- non-school candidates.

The application process

The application forms are available at the time of the ATAR course examinations from examination centres, the Authority's office and the Authority website.

The application form for sickness/misadventure consideration is completed by the candidate and returned along with supporting documentation direct to the Authority by the published deadline. Forms should be submitted immediately following the candidate's last examination affected by the sickness/misadventure. Applications relating to a practical or oral examination that are initiated by an event unlikely to occur during the written examinations (e.g. a voice problem, car accident on the way to the examination, physical injury only affecting the practical performance) **must** be submitted immediately following that practical examination.

Candidates are responsible for the lodgement of their application to the Authority by the due date. Completed forms are **not** to be returned to schools or examination centres. Late applications and electronic applications cannot be accepted. Applications cannot be lodged on behalf of a student without the student's consent. Non-school candidates cannot make an application.

Evidence

Candidates are responsible for providing evidence that identifies clearly the unexpected disadvantage they suffered at the time of attempting the examinations. Supporting evidence from a relevant independent source is needed.

Medical evidence: For applications based on illness or injury, information is to be provided by a doctor or other registered health professional, not related to or a friend of the candidate. For short-term illnesses it is advisable to seek medical evidence as close to the examination day as possible, preferably the day of or day before the examination, especially if the condition prevents attendance.

Candidates with long term mental illness must demonstrate that ongoing management strategies of a previously well-controlled condition along with special examination provisions have unexpectedly failed to manage the condition, and that any acute episode is unrelated to the examination.

Misadventure evidence: Misadventure applications must be supported by a statement from a relevant person (e.g. mechanic, police officer) who is not related to the applicant. The psychological impact of a misadventure should be evident in the application.

Procedures for assessment of applications

1. **Submission of applications.** The application form and supporting documentation is received by the executive officer for the committee. Late applications cannot be accepted.
2. **Categorisation of applications.** To facilitate equitable decision-making, the applications will be sorted by category. The forms are confidential and will be retained securely.
3. **Assessment by medical personnel.** The forms will initially be assessed within medical categories by medical personnel and be divided into two groups. Those that:
 - 'read okay' and clearly meet the guidelines and are recommended for approval by the sickness/misadventure committee, or
 - require 'further consideration' by the sickness/misadventure committee.
4. **Determination by committee.** Each application is considered on an examination-by-examination basis. It is possible that different determinations might be made for different examinations. All decisions will be evidence-based and use approved guidelines.
5. **Calculation of the derived examination mark.** For approved applications, this is done using the candidate's moderated school assessment and a statistical process using a regression formula. The candidate is awarded the higher of the actual examination mark and the calculated mark. Practical and written marks are calculated separately.
6. **Informing of the outcome.** Notification will be via the student portal at the same time as the candidate's results.
7. **Final Determination.** As a sickness/misadventure application is considered an appeal against a candidate's performance, the decision of the committee is considered final. If applicants consider that there was a breach in the process followed by the committee, they can make a written statement to the Executive Director, School Curriculum and Standards. Where the Executive Director, School Curriculum and Standards does not endorse the decision made (s)he will establish a group comprising the Chair of the Board, another Board member, the relevant Executive Director and another individual with relevant expertise. The Executive Director, School Curriculum and Standards will make a final determination. The candidate will be informed of the decision.