



Guide For Use: The experience of disability is complex and multi-dimensional. It has been described using impairments of structure and/or function, patterns of activity limitation, participation restrictions, environmental factors and support needs. Each of these dimensions can inform the decision of which group to use.

Intellectual/learning disability is associated with impairment of mental functions with limitations in a range of daily activities and restriction in participation in a range of life areas. Supports may be needed throughout life, the level of support tends to be consistent over a period of time but may change in association with changes in life circumstances. This grouping will include such groupings as, for example, Developmental delay, Intellectual, Specific learning/Attention deficit disorder and Autism from the Australian National disability grouping.

Psychiatric disability is associated with clinically recognisable symptoms and behaviour patterns associated with distress that may impair personal functioning in normal social activity. Impairments of global and specific mental functions are experienced, with associated activity limitations and participation restrictions in a range of areas. Supports needed may be vary in range, and may be required with intermittent intensity during the course of the condition. Change in level of supports tends to be related to changes in the level of impairment.

Sensory/speech disability is associated with impairment of the eye, ear and related structures. Extent of impairment, and activity limitation tend to remain consistent for long periods. Participation restrictions are in areas of communication primarily, but may include mobility. Availability of a specific range of environmental factors will affect the level of disability experienced by people in the sensory grouping. Once in place, the level of support tends to be relatively consistent. Sensory disability will include such groupings as, for example, Deafblind, Vision, and Hearing and Speech from the Australian National disability grouping.

Physical/diverse disability is associated with the presence of a common impairment, which may have diverse effects within and among individuals, including effects on physical activities such as mobility. The range and extent of activity limitation and participation restriction will vary with the extent of impairment. Environmental factors and support needs are related to areas of activity limitation and participation restriction, and may be required for long periods. Level of supports may vary with both life changes and extent of impairment. Physical/diverse disability will include such groupings as, for example, Physical, Acquired



