

# Practical support for HSC exams

## Information for students and parents

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has a program to help students with practical support in their Higher School Certificate (HSC) exams. This practical support, known as provisions, is to access their HSC exams. Examples of provisions are rest breaks and small group supervision. To be fair, NESA must balance the interests of all students with and without provisions.

### Approved provisions provide access to HSC exams.

- To access HSC exams is to: read exam questions, think about answers and write answers.
- Provisions are not approved to give an advantage over other students or to achieve potential.

### More than 10,000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Students should not feel embarrassed if they need provisions for:

- a permanent condition (eg diabetes, reading difficulty)
- a temporary/emergency condition (eg a broken arm)
- a condition that has an occasional impact (eg back pain).

Provisions help students to show what they know and can do.

### Evidence

NESA needs evidence that can include results of the student's performance on reading and spelling tests, work samples (extended responses) and teacher comments on adjustments that have been trialled at school.

Disability impacts students in different ways. Applying one approach for one condition does not recognise the individual needs of each student. Therefore, students with the same disability may have different provisions approved.

### NESA HSC provisions may differ from school-determined adjustments

- Adjustments approved by schools for school assessment tasks may not be appropriate for the HSC exams.

### How to apply for HSC provisions

The school submits an online application to NESA for provisions requested. The school also submits recent evidence, which may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments.

The school should submit all applications by the end of Term 1. Late applications may be submitted for an emergency such as a broken arm, until the time of the examinations.

The school will provide the student with a copy of NESA's decision. The school may submit appeals against NESA decisions. Appeals need to state why the decision is unsuitable and must include new evidence.

**If you think that you or your child may require support in completing the HSC exams, please discuss the matter with the Year Adviser, School Counsellor or Teacher.**