



The Hon James Merlino MP

Deputy Premier
Minister for Education

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Mr Bob Buckley
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Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your email regarding outcomes for students with disabilities, specifically those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to maximising the achievement of all students and the Education State provides a plan for ensuring that our schools have the capacity to deliver excellence and equality for all. Effective implementation of the new Victorian Curriculum is an important part of the Education State, and will improve outcomes for Victorian students by improving the quality of teaching in every classroom.

The Victorian Curriculum sets out what every student, including children and young people with disabilities, should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. Students with disabilities can engage with the curriculum provided the necessary adjustments are made. The Victorian Curriculum offers flexibility for teachers to tailor their teaching in ways that provide rigorous, relevant and engaging learning and assessment opportunities for all students.

In Victoria, the curriculum includes levels A to D which provide curriculum content for students with disabilities whose learning achievement is prior to Foundation level of the curriculum. A unique curriculum assessment and reporting tool for these students is provided through the Abilities Based Learning and Education Support (ABLES) resources. ABLES allows a teacher to identify and set learning goals for a student, track their progress toward these goals over time and provides advice regarding effective teaching strategies that are proven to improve learning outcomes. To find out more about the ABLES resources, please visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/Pages/ables.aspx.

I thank you for your link to the article written by Mr Chris Varney of the I CAN Network and I have brought it to the attention of Mr Mark Tainsh, Director, Inclusion, Access and Participation, Department of Education and Training. I am advised that the Department is working with the I CAN Network to trial their program in a number of schools across Victoria.

If you would like further information, you may contact Mr Mark Tainsh, Director, Inclusion, Access and Participation, Early Childhood and School Education Group, Department of Education and Training, on 9637 3844 or by email: tainsh.mark.t@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Merlino'.

17.3.16

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