

Guide Dogs.

Supporting children with vision loss and blindness to achieve their goals at school.



About Guide Dogs

At Guide Dogs, we empower people with vision loss to achieve independence, participation, inclusion and wellbeing at all ages and stages of their life.

While we are well-known for our furry companions, Guide Dogs offer **more than just dogs**. From early learning programs for babies and young children with vision loss; to moving around school environments with the long cane and other mobility tools; to accessing curriculum and learning opportunities through physical and technological adjustments; to the social aspects of school life, Guide Dogs is there every step of the way to help children navigate through life in the way they choose.



More than dogs

Helping children in their school environment

Guide Dogs specialist staff can help children in and out of the classroom with:



Orientation and mobility



Occupational therapy



Assistive Technology



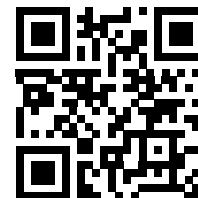
Psychology

Every child deserves to reach their schooling goals.

Our personalised programs will help children at every step of their early learning and schooling journey.

Guide Dogs is funded by the Queensland Government to provide programs and services under the Specialist Disability Support in Schools (SDSS) program.

Programs outside of school areas are also available. Contact us for more details.



Proudly supported by the Department of Education



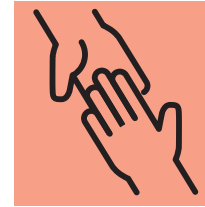


Orientation and mobility

From a young age, children play and explore new environments to learn about themselves, each other, and how to be part of a community.

Children with low vision or blindness are no different. However, they need to develop a different set of skills to understand and move through the world.

Guide Dogs' Orientation and Mobility Specialists will help children navigate and understand their environment to ensure they are safe in the classroom and in the wider school community.



Occupational Therapy

Every child should have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of school life, whether that is sport, music, art, science, or any other learning area.

Children with low vision or blindness may need extra support to make this possible. But with the support and guidance of a Guide Dogs Occupational Therapist, the student can increase their independence, confidently take part in the sporting game, play musical instruments, paint a picture, or conduct an experiment just like their peers.



Using technology and devices to make life easier

For children with vision loss or blindness, technology will allow them to stay connected with friends, engaged in activities, and passionate about learning.

Our specialists can help the teacher and student learn the right technology to ensure the student is not disadvantaged by their low vision.





Psychology

Children can talk with our dedicated team about anything they like, including feelings, concerns or challenges they face in experiencing vision impairment and blindness in their school environment.

A supportive ear from someone experienced with vision loss and the psychological can be the difference between a withdrawn and frustrated student and one who is happy, engaged, and excited about learning.



For Teachers and Staff

In addition to our one-on-one services for students, we can also work with teaching and other school staff to increase understanding of the impact of vision impairment on learning, perception and mobility. Our Specialists can work with school staff to identify simple adjustments and strategies that can be used within classrooms and schools to support students with vision loss.



These adjustments can be implemented by teachers and school staff to enhance capability and improve outcomes for students with vision loss to proactively engage them in all aspects of schooling. Through a holistic, integrated therapy approach by our Specialists, school staff can understand the mobility, daily living and social aspects that are affected by vision loss to support all students in their learning pathways.

This can be a collaboration of our Orientation & Mobility Specialists, Occupational Therapists and Psychologist to highlight the mobility, daily living and social aspects that can be easily adjusted by teachers to support all students in their learning pathways.



Every child deserves to reach their schooling goals.

With the support of family, teachers, the school community, and Guide Dogs every student will have this opportunity.

Contact us to find out what Guide Dogs can do for your child.



guidedogsqld.com.au

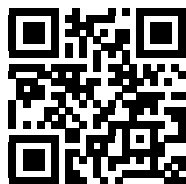


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