CARE DOGS & CO

Care Dogs & Co Assistance Dog Information Brochure



www.caredogsandco.com.au





Hello there!

Care Dogs & Co was established after our founder, Alyssia's own personal mental health challenges and identifying the lack of an Assistance Dog pathway and support network within Tasmania.

Her empathy & enthusiasm is shared by the highly trained and experienced team she has collated statewide.

The Care Dogs & Co network of dog trainers located throughout Tasmania enables Care Dogs & Co to offer best practice Assistance Dog Accreditation training statewide, guiding you through the process of accreditation from start to finish and beyond.

Assisting clients train their own Assistance Dog is the key to our company commitment of

"Canines Enabling Connections"

Alyssia Confes

Founder, Care Dogs & Co







What is an Assistance Dog

An Assistance Dog is NOT a therapy dog!

They are highly trained service dogs that are required to perform tasks to alleviate the effects of their handler's disability.

An Assistance Dog may improve your wellbeing, increase your community & social interaction & confidence and importantly mitigate a disability including but not limited to the following:

(Intellectual · Physical · Acquired brain injury · Neurological (including autism, epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease) · Deafblind (dual sensory) · Vision · Hearing · Speech • Psychiatric (PTSD, schizophrenia, affective disorders, anxiety disorders, addictive behaviors, personality disorders, stress, psychosis, depression and adjustment disorders) commonly referred as psychosocial disability.



"Any person with a disability and a passion & connection for dogs has the ability – through our tailored partnerships – to train their loyal canine to reach Assistance Dog Accreditation!"



What Can We Achieve Together

The Care Dogs & Co team will provide you with the tools and knowledge to train a suitable dog under your care to achieve Assistance Dog Accreditation within eighteen months under our program guidelines. Becoming a part of the Care Dogs & Co family ensures lifelong friendships, you are supported long-term creating journey is successful, rewarding, and enjoyable.

THE LAW THAT PROTECTS YOUR **RIGHTS:**

- ✓ The Disability Discrimination Act 1992:
 - "(2) For the purposes of this Act, an assistance animal is a dog or other animal: I. trained:
 - (i) to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability; and
 - (ii) to meet standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place."

To ensure this standard is met, the handler/dog team is required to undertake a Public Access Test (PAT) which has been set to the same standards and guidelines as the benchmark QLD GHAD (Guide-Hearing-Assistance-Dogs Act 2009) and retested annually.

How It Works

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

- The Care Dogs & Co team will treat you with respect, dignity, transparency and privacy
- Our admin team will pair you with a Care Dogs & Co qualified trainer and support you through the complete journey from start to finish and beyond
- Communication will be clear, precise and readily available
- Your trainer will teach you how to train your dog using ONLY best practice standards and positive reward-based methods
- Care Dogs & Co will help you train your dog to meet the Public Access Test requirements in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA), section 9 (2) I. This act guarantees dogs trained as assistance dogs are provided with full public access (except for the places outlined in Section 54A)



COMMUNICATION

CONTACT DETAILS

0408525376 caredogsandco@outlook.com 347 Montagu Rd Smithton TAS 7330

OFFICE HOURS

Admin are ALWAYS available on 0408525376

WEBSITE

www.caredogsandco.com.au

SOCIAL MEDIA

@caredogsandco





How It Works

O 2 YOUR COMMITMENT TO CARE DOGS & CO

- To train and care for your dog using only positive, rewardsbased, fear- and force-free methods, and with best-practice animal husbandry techniques
- Listen to your trainer/s and work to the training plan mutually agreed upon
- Submit diarised training reports fortnightly, so we can help you learn and achieve your goals.
 This also ensures we collectivily have the evidence required to work under the DDA (1992).
- You have the financial security to manage the demands of training and to afford the lifelong upkeep of a dog and the fees associated with your training program, including the cost of fortnightly training sessions
- Communication is vital ensuring to keep channels open and voice any concerns about the program or your progress as soon as you feel them arise.

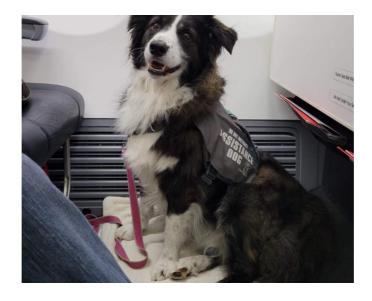


- When you are training your dog
 in one of the Care Dogs & Co
 company vests, you will uphold
 the company policies,
 procedures & principles. Ensuring
 ethical and responsible dog
 ownership and training
 principles
- You will comply with the rules, regulations, and responsibilities of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 in relation to having an assistance dog, both during training and upon accreditation
- Agree to undertake annual PAT re-accreditation, and should you fail to apply for a re-test or not pass the annual PAT re-test, you will surrender your ID cards and vest, which remain the property of Care Dogs & Co.

What's Involved?

There are 4 levels you and your dog MUST pass to reach full accreditation with Care Dogs & Co:

- **Preliminary Level** this is the pre-entry assessment to assess you and your dog's suitability to enter the Assistance Dog Program at Introductory level
- Introductory Level Skills as outlined in the Assistance Dog Accreditation Training & Assessment Program conducted in a low to medium distraction environment
- Intermediate Level Skills as outlined in the Assistance Dog Accreditation Training an Assessment Program ramps up the degree of difficulty preparing the team for Advanced Level skills and full accreditation as an Assistance Dog. Working on skills previously gained in more intense public situations with medium to high levels of distraction along with additional skills. At this level the teams receive their L jackets & ID. Enabling them to continue to refine their skills in public settings prior to sitting the Public Access Test.
- Advanced Level training increases in difficulty in preparation for the
 Public Access Test and full accreditation with Care Dogs & Co. This involves
 refining skills in public situations under high to very high levels of distractions
 and identifying disability mitigation tasks specific to the handler which
 enables the handler and dog to comply with the Disability Discrimination
 Act 1992 (DDA). Completion of Public Access Test.





What it costs? – Puppy Program

There are set administration fees, and training sessions which are purchased separately and can be purchased in blocks, so you know exactly what your costs are:

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

WHAT YOU'LL GET:

- Puppy Preschool training program (if required) with full admin support
- One on one training sessions with the BEST trainers in the state
- Foundation training preparing your puppy for their Assistance Dog journey

YOUR INVESTMENT \$150

What it costs? – Novice/Junior Program



There are set administration fees, and training sessions which are purchased separately and can be purchased in blocks, so you know exactly what your costs are:

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

YOUR INVESTMENT \$150

WHAT YOU'LL GET:

- Junior/Novice training program (if required) with full admin support
- One on one training sessions with the BEST trainers in the state
- Junior/Novice Training for novice dogs over 12 weeks of age preparation for entry into the Assistance Dog Accreditation program. Graduation from the Junior / Novice Training course requires a pass in the Preliminary (pre-entry) Level assessment. Successful Junior / Novice teams therefore enter the Assistance Dog Program at Introductory level and, once administration fees are paid, begin training straight away for their Trainee jacket.



Assistance Dog Accreditation Program

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

SUMMARY:

- ✓ Full Assistance Dog training program to reach compliance with the DDA 1992 (Fully accredited Assistance Dog) plus full admin support
- One on one training sessions with the BEST trainers in the state
- The Care Dogs & Co Assistance Dog Accreditation Training program is presented across three levels: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced. An initial Preliminary (pre-entry) assessment is required to ensure the dog has what it takes in temperament, social skills, and basic obedience to become an Assistance Dog

YOUR INVESTMENT \$1,300

Assistance Dog Accreditation Program Includes:



Program
Administration

Program Administration covers all administration fees, support administration and resources. Paid upon application.

\$400

Preliminary Assessment Preliminary Level pass is required for program entry. Paid upon application

\$150

Some clients may be unsure whether their dog is ready to enter the full Assistance Dog Accreditation program. Rather than having to commit financially to the \$550 Application Fee, we are happy to arrange for a Preliminary (pre-entry) Assessment of the dog for the standard assessment fee of \$150. If successful and you proceed with your application, this assessment fee comes off the full program application fee. This provides reassurance at no cost.

Assistance Dog Accreditation Program Includes:



Trainee
Jacket & ID

Once Introductory Level is passed the handler & dog are issued with ID & Jackets. Paid upon passing.

\$100

Introductory Level Assessment Assessment of skills at Introductory Level. paid prior to assessment

\$150

* If an assessment is graded a 'non-pass', a fee of \$150 is incurred to cover the cost of the Assessor.

Once paid, the candidate can then resit the assessment under the original course administration fee.

Assessments may only be attempted twice, regardless of the level. A re-sit must be attempted within three months and if the assessment is not passed for a second time, the dog will be deemed to be unfit as an assistance dog and not permitted to continue in the program. Unused fees will be refunded, excluding the program administration fee.

All jackets and ID cards remain the property of Care Dogs & Co and must be returned if requested (should the team fail to pass or apply for annual reaccreditation).

Assistance Dog Accreditation Program Includes:



Intermediate Level Assessment Assessment of skills at Intermediate Level. Paid prior to assessment

\$150

Advance Level Assessment Advanced Level – PAT – assessment. Paid prior to assessment

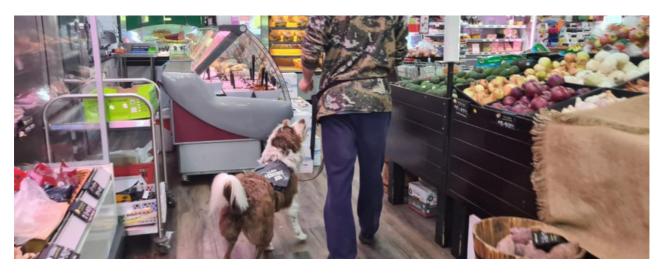
\$250

Accredited
Assistance
Dog Jacket
& ID

Once Advanced Level - Public Access Test (PAT) is passed the handler & dog are issued with ID & Jackets. Paid once passed

\$100

Assistance Dog Annual & Independent Accreditation Includes:



Annual Public Access Test (PAT) Annual reaccreditation - in order to be able to sit this PAT all annual teams must have a training session quarterly per year with their trainer

\$250

Independent Public Access Test

Independent Public Access Testing for teams not completing the Care Dogs & Co Program.

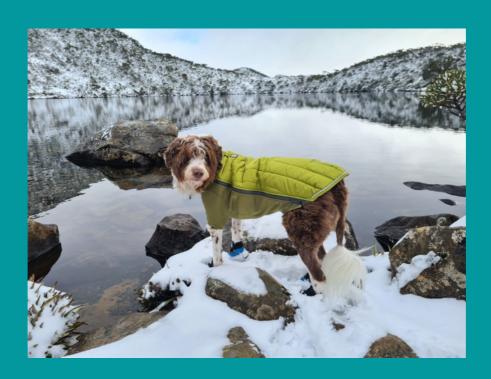
\$1,000

Independent Public Access Tests are at the discretion of the Care Dogs & Co administration and assessment team. The team will be required to attend 1 training session with the assessor prior to testing (included in price)

Accelerated Program

Accelerated Program

In some instances, the handler and dog are above level when entering the Care Dogs & Co program. This can be discussed further on an individual basis with your trainer and in consultation with the Care Dogs & Co Assessor and administration team. If it is deemed appropriate the assessor will conduct the agreed assessments together. This is subject to approval as this can sometimes be a mindset of rushing to achieve the Introductory Level and attain the trainee Jacket & ID. The cost is collated and remains the same as stated earlier in the brochure.



Don't have a dog....no problem we can help!

Care Dogs & Co Dog Program

Sometimes we have clients that don't have a dog already or the dog they do have isn't suitable to progress as an Assistance Dog.

Please don't let that be a barrier that stops you continuing your owner trained Assistance Dog journey. We can help!

With 9 amazing trainers statewide and networks both in Tasmania and abroad we have the contacts to be able to find a dog for you! This process may not happen immediately, and it may take a few meet and greets with your prospective dog, ensuring you both click, and the dog will suit your needs and lifestyle, but we will find you a dog!

An Assistance Dog can be any breed! and we have access to a wide range of dogs big and small!

Occasionally we are very lucky and have breeders donate pups to go on with an Assistance Dog life journey in mind too!



Terms & conditions do apply

Training Fees!



Training fees are what we call variable......this being it will depend on you, your dog and how much work you put into your training away from your official training sessions. Initial training may be more frequent this is discussed and coordinated with your trainer. Please note we DO NOT allow our teams to go any longer than 3 weeks without a training session.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

STEP 1:

Training sessions are \$150 for one hour, and blocks are available with a 10% discount for more than 5 sessions purchased in the one transaction and can be purchased via the Care Dogs & Co website. Afterpay is available.

Training sessions MUST be purchased prior to the training session.

Training sessions can be used across the entire CDC training curriculum, including preparation for annual PAT re-accreditation. Unused block sessions are refunded at the discretion of CDC management and are subject to a small administration fee.

Once the Preliminary assessment has been passed and course fees paid, the team enters the training program under the guidance of one of our experienced and approved trainers, by purchasing blocks of training sessions.

When Introductory Level skills are competent the client is assessed and, if successful, a Trainee Assistance Dog jacket and ID card are issued. The team then proceeds to Intermediate level with access to train in all public places as if a fully accredited Assistance Dog (except air flights).

Once Intermediate skills are competent the client is assessed for progression into Advanced Level, and once Advanced Level skills are competent, the team may apply for a Public Access Test (PAT). If successful, the team will receive full accreditation as a Care Dogs & Co Assistance Dog with ID jacket and card. Annual PATs are required thereafter to maintain accreditation.

A more detailed course overview is available which provides a concise summary of the skills covered at each level of the program, and the assessment outlines ensure clients understand the standard required to achieve competency. The skills begin at very basic competency and progress very gradually, so the program is eminently achievable if the training is done.

"Before Lucy was accredited as an Assistance dog my life was much harder, I would stay at home, rarely go out, trapped in my own mind.

Since then I have had greater self-confidence and freedom to leave the house and do more recreational activities with Lucy.

When we're out in public, everyone wants to say hello to her, which is usually a good way to initiate a conversation, which helps with my anxiety and reluctance to engage with people in the first place.

Lucy keeps me occupied throughout the day, and gives me something positive to focus on instead of focusing on dark thoughts when I used to be alone.

Lucy has a calming influence on me, she gives me unconditional love, and never leaves my side. Lucy has given me a reason to get out of bed in the morning, giving me a new lease on life.

Even though I still have issues to overcome, Lucy has brought happiness back into my life, providing companionship and emotional assistance as I go through my days.

I could not recommend Alyssia and the crew at Care Dogs and Co more highly. They're kind, dedicated, hardworking and provide incredible support and understanding.

I cannot imagine living life without Lucy by my side."

Kieran and Lucy

"I am writing in support of Alyssia and her organisation CareDogs & Co. I have been involved with them for nearly two years through my service dog Dexter. Trina and her crew have demonstrated significant benefit to the veterans of Tasmania, especially as they are the only Tasmanian-based organisation through which Veterans can train their own service dog. I am a firm believer in CareDogs' 'Partnership Trained Model' whereby veterans take their own (suitable) dog through the training process. This is what I also did with Dexter, and it has made me have such a better relationship with him as a result, as well as been of significant benefit to myself in terms of being attuned to him, understanding his behaviours, and therefore being able to benefit from his assistance. This model also ensures higher levels of social integration from the veterans, gives them the skills to manage their dogs (and therefore themselves!) so much more, and therefore is more benefit again. This process took me 15 months to go through, but this journey was so worthwhile for myself and Dexter because of the relationship we developed, and the improvements we both made. This is a high-quality and dedicated team who are providing services to Tasmanian veterans, and doing so on a shoe-string / voluntary budget. Any support that can be provided to them will be most appreciated by their clients, and the veterans they assist."

Jon & Dexter

"WHY I HAVE MY ASSISTANCE DOG?

WHERE DO I START? WELL, AFTER A MAJOR PART OF MY WORKING LIFE SERVING IN THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY, I WAS EVENTUALLY DEEMED UNFIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE AND WAS MEDICALLY DISCHARGED. MY LIFE WAS IN TURMOIL. I FELT THAT THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD HELP WAS MY DOG, BUDDY. SO AFTER A LOT OF ANGUISH WITH ANOTHER PROGRAM HE BECAME MY ASSISTANCE DOG. HE PROVIDED ENORMOUS HELP.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE PASSED AWAY NOT LONG AFTER HE GRADUATED, SO I HAD TO START THAT JOURNEY ALL OVER AGAIN.

I FOUND MY NEW BOY FLOKI AT THE DOG'S HOME AND WE FELL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER. HE NOW HAS HIS TRAINEE JACKET AND WE GO EVERYWHERE TOGETHER. WITHOUT FLOKI, GOING INTO CROWDS AND NEW PLACES IS SO DAUNTING FOR ME. THERE IS NOTHING NICE ABOUT IT. I JUST CAN'T RELAX. BUT HAVING HIM WITH ME MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

THIS ALSO MAKES A DIFFERENCE WITH MY MARRIAGE.

IF I DIDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO CARE DOG AND CO AND THEIR TRAINERS, I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY. I AM ABLE TO GO AROUND WITH SO MUCH LESS FEAR. I JUST LOVE WHAT OUR DOGS CAN DO FOR US AND I NOW LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS."

DAVE & FLOKI

In 2018, I was medically discharged from the army after 39 years of loyal and dedicated service. Not only was I suffering from mental illness, but it also felt like my world and worth had suddenly stopped. As much as I tried to put a brave face on things, I was slowly going into a very dark place.

It was during a psychiatrist appointment that I was told about assistance dogs and my doctor asked if I would consider training a dog. Following assessment by a dog training team, I was informed that I was suited to the program and could pick my own dog to start training.

Being a lover of the boxer breed, I found a very knowledgeable breeder who introduced me to my new best friend, Frank. He was a just a ten-week-old puppy! Frank quickly demonstrated his ability to learn the special skills he needed to look after me. He exceeded all training expectations by smashing his Public Access Test within 12 months of starting his training, to become my fully accredited assistance dog.

At first it was strange walking through shopping centres, attending concerts, or going to the gym with an assistance dog by my side. It felt like everyone was watching me but I'm okay with that, now. The reassurance Frank provides me every day helps me feel secure, safe, and able to connect with people in my community again.

When I barely realise I am experiencing an escalation of my mental state, Frank is aware and he quickly reacts to distract me from my thoughts. He applies deep pressure therapy and licks me until he gets a response. He sometimes pulls me to an exit to remove the me from the thing that is triggering my stress, and then goes to work on me in a quieter place, calming me down and resetting me.

There was an occasion when I was assisting at my archery club with Frank. We had a school group of special needs children who were having an awesome time, until one of the kids became very upset. Frank immediately responded to the child's distress and sat with her and comforted her. It calmed the situation down for everyone. It was awesome to observe him work his magic, and it helped me understand how essential assistance dogs are!

I don't know where I would be without Frank by my side, helping me regain normality and balance. His presence gives me the ability to leave the house without the fear and dread my psychiatric condition swamps me with. He is awesome.

It's still not always easy, but with Frank and ongoing support of the team at Care Dogs & Co, I know I can do this!

Jay & Frank



Are you covered by DVA funding?

Currently we are not covered by any DVA funding, however, will be applying to become their preferred Tasmanian supplier in March 2023

Are you covered by NDIS funding?

In December 2022 Care Dogs & Co had their first team approved via NDIS. this process was lengthy and emotionally and financially challenging for the client

What if i dont like the trainer im allocated to?

Care Dogs & Co have 9 trainers statewide and we understand that sometimes people just dont gel.....thats OK we will reallocate you to a new trainer.

What training do your trainers have?

All our trainers are First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention trained. Our trainers have Cert IV in Animal Behaviour & Training or the equivalent. All trainers hold a Working with Vulnerable Persons card. We weren't joking when we said we have the BEST trainers Tasmania has to offer!

Let's Get Started!

If you have read this information brochure and believe Care Dogs & Co are the right organisation to take you on your Assistance Dog journey, you can apply using the following links:

https://forms.gle/7rum2QragfLaQSkj9 Assistance Dog Program

https://forms.gle/p8e3YsX2y6SYF8LZA Junior/Novice Program

In addition, you will require the Care Dogs & Co Medical Practitioner and the Veterinarian Forms to be completed and submitted with your application.

If your still not sure and have further questions either give me a call or flick me an email and I will be more than happy to discuss your queries in more detail!

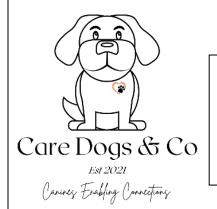
Once signed up we can get your preliminary assessment conducted and START your training with one of our amazing trainers!

Remember the Care Dogs & Co team from clients, dogs, trainers, assessors and the admin team are family and here to support you to achieve your goals!

0408525376

caredogsandco@outlook.com www.caredogsandco.com.gu





Care Dogs & Co

Veterinarian Form

To be completed and signed by your vet and must accompany/be uploaded with your application. If you are UNABLE to upload with your application the form can be mailed to:347 Montagu Rd Smithton TAS 7330 or emailed caredogsandco@outlook.com

For all questions, please contact Alyssia Coates 0408525376

For all questions, please contact Alyssia Coates 0408525576							
Clients Name:							
VETERINARIAN DETAILS Veterinarian Name: Veterinarian Address:			Veterinarian Email Address:				
DOGS DETAILS:							
Dogs Name:			Desexed:	YES	NO		
Dogs Breed:			Dogs Date of Birth:				
Sex:			Dogs Micro C	hip #:			
Current Vaccination Details: (Please provide dates of last administration): Last C5 vaccination administrated: Next C56 vaccination due:							
Parasite Program. In your opinion, is the above dog on an effective program for the control of			of the following:	YES	NO		
Check all that apply.							
Heart Worm (not required in Tasmania unless travelling inte				YES	NO		
Endoparasite	YES	NO					
Ectoparasite	YES	NO					



GENERAL HEALTH Mark only one ONLY. Excellent - no chronic disease or disorder Very Good - minor complaints associated with normal aging etc Good - condition requiring temporary treatment or managed chronic illness (please detail below) Poor - any dysfunctions affecting activities of daily living (please detail below) **EXAMINATION** Overall appearance e.g. behaviour, coat, nails, healthy weight: Eyes, ears, nose, mouth e.g. appearance, dental, discharge: Respiratory system e.g. auscultation: Abdomen e.g. palpation: Skeletal, musculature and nervous system e.g. tenderness, lameness, paresis, range of motion: Genitourinary system e.g. mammary glands, renal, bladder: Skin and anal glands e.g. appearance, odour: Chronic illnesses, ongoing treatments and medications as well as other comments:

In your professional opinion, is this dog healthy enough to work as an Assistance Dog? Mark one ONLY.

YES

NO

Vets Signature: Date:





Care Dogs & Co

Medical Practitioner Form

To be completed and signed by your Medical Practitioner and must accompany/be uploaded with your application. If you are UNABLE to upload with your application the form can be mailed to:347 Montagu Rd Smithton TAS 7330 or emailed caredogsandco@outlook.com

For all questions, please contact Alyssia Coates 0408525376

MEDICAL PRACTITIONER DETAILS

Medical Practitioner Name: Mark one ONLY.

Psvchiatrist Medical Practitioner Address:

GP

Psychologist

Community Health Nurse

Medical Practitioner Email Address: Other

PATIENT DETAILS:

Patient Name:

Does your patient suffer from a condition/illness?

Mark one ONLY.

Yes No

Is your patient on medication?

Mark one ONLY.

Yes No

Are they reliable with their medication?

Mark one ONLY.

Yes No

Is your patient capable of caring for a dog? or has an assigned carer who can

assist? Mark one ONLY.

Yes No

Is anger a trait of your patient's condition?

Mark one ONLY.

Yes No

Will the dog be safe in your patients care?

Mark one ONLY.

Yes Nο

How do you expect an Assistance Dog will assist your patient/improve their/alleviate their condition?



The Australian Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Definition of disability under the DDA The definition of disability for the purposes of the DDA can be found in Section 4 of the Act. The DDA defines disability as:• total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions• total or partial loss of a part of the body• the presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness• the presence in the body of organisms capable of causing disease or illness• the malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person's body• a disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction• a disorder, illness or disease that affects a person's thought processes, perception of reality, emotions or judgment or that results in disturbed behaviour. The definition of "disability" used in the DDA is broad. It includes physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological and learning disabilities. It also includes physical disfigurement and the presence in the body of disease-causing organisms, such as the HIV virus. The DDA covers disabilities that people have now, had in the past, may have in the future or which they are believed to have. To avoid doubt, a disability that is otherwise covered by this definition includes behaviour that is a symptom or manifestation of the disability.

of the disability.				
	and the all to all a Access the			
In your opinion, does your client meet the definition of a disability Disability Discrimination Act 1992? Mark one ONLY.	as defined in the Australiai			
Yes				
No				
	5 .			
Doctors Signature:	Date			

