



The
**Information
Access**
Group



Submission to the House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training

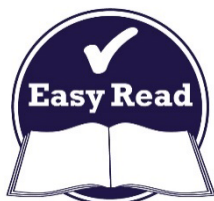
Inquiry into Adult Literacy and its Importance



How to use this document



The Information Access Group wrote this document.
When you see the word 'we', it means The Information Access Group.



We wrote this information in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We have written some words in **bold**.
This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.
There is a list of these words on page 20.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can ask for help to read this document.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

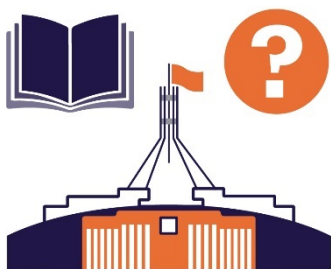
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What is this document about?



This document shares our ideas about work the Australian Parliament is doing.



The Australian Parliament is running an **Inquiry** into Adult **Literacy** and how important it is.

An Inquiry is a way for governments to:



- look at a problem



- try to find solutions.



Literacy is reading and writing.



So far, lots of people and organisations have written to the Inquiry to share what they think.



We want to share what we think as well.



A Committee runs the Inquiry.

The Committee is a group of people who are looking at information and ideas about literacy in Australia.

About the Information Access Group



The Information Access Group make **accessible** information.



If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:



- a place or a building



- a service

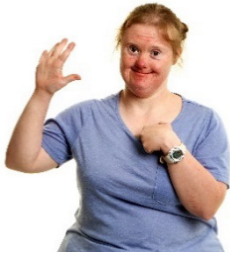


- information.



Our work is about accessible information.

We make information accessible for:



- people with disability



- people who speak languages other than English



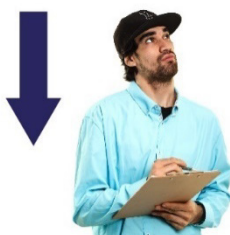
- **First Nations** peoples



- older people



- young people



- people with low levels of literacy.



First Nations people are also known as
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We work with:



- government



- community organisations



- businesses.

What has happened so far?



The Committee has received a lot of great ideas.

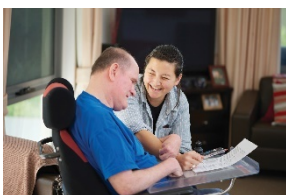
They have received information about:



- the number of people in Australia who have low levels of literacy



- how low literacy affects people's lives



- how we can help more adults learn to read and write.



We think these are very important for the Committee to think about.



But we also think the Committee needs to think about making sure there is more accessible information for the people who need it.

Why do people need accessible information?

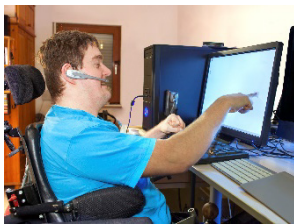
Accessible information is easy to:



- read



- understand.



It also works on screen readers or other technology that some people use to help them in their daily life.



In this document, we are mostly talking about information that is easy to read and understand.

Who needs accessible information?

Some people find it hard to read or use everyday information, like:



- a form



- a phone bill



- the rules for using a credit card.



If you struggle to read, it can be hard to take part in our community.



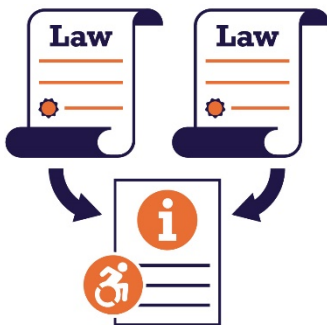
Accessible information is good for everyone.



It helps people who find it hard to read.



It helps people who are busy and don't have a lot of time.



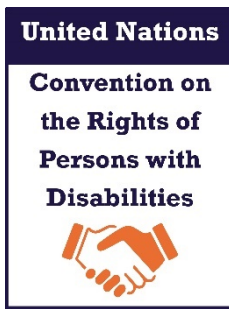
There are laws that say everyone should be able to get accessible information if they need it.



This includes a law called the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.



This law explains how people with disability should be treated.



In Australia, we have also agreed to the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (the UN Convention).



The UN Convention sets out the rights of people with disability.



It explains how people with disability should be treated fairly.



Many countries around the world use it.



We think that everyone should have access to information in a way that suits their needs.

This will help more people to:



- have a say about important ideas and issues



- understand their rights and choices



- learn and take part in education



- find a job



- stay healthy



- get support in an emergency



- take part in our community.

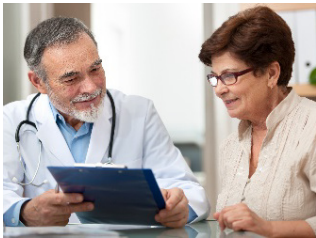
Simple information can be used in:



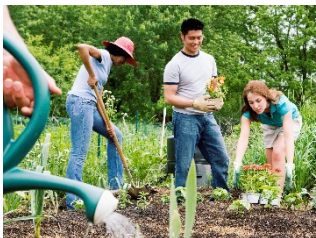
- government



- education



- health



- community life



- employment.

And it can be used for everyone in our community, including:



- people with disability



- people who speak languages other than English



- First Nations peoples



- people of all ages



- people who live in the city or the country.

How do we make information accessible?

At the Information Access Group, we use:



- plain language – text that is clear and well-written



- Easy Read – simple text that uses images to help explain the main ideas.



This document is written in Easy Read.



When text and images are used together, it makes the information easier to understand.

What would we like the Committee to think about?



We'd like the Committee to think about using more accessible information.



We think they still need to come up with ways to help more people to learn to read and write.



But we think that having more accessible information will help people right now.



In the future, we hope that more and more people have better literacy.



But we still think that people will need and want accessible information as well.

Word list

Bold

Not bold

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Accessible

If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:

- a place or a building
- a service
- information.



First Nations

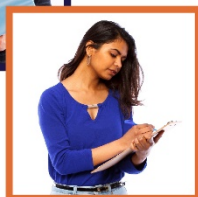
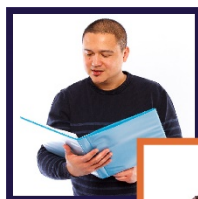
First Nations people are also known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Inquiry

An Inquiry is a way for governments to:

- look at a problem
- try to find solutions.



Literacy

Literacy is reading and writing.

Contact us



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