

## Why is a clear vision statement important?

Creating a clear vision statement for your student is an essential part of establishing a strong core of hopes and dreams for a future life. It is the consistent referencing to this vision, during a student's school life, that ensures consistent alignment for an inclusive school experience.

## How do you create a strong vision statement?

A vision is a statement describing the hopes and dreams for a person's good life. Every vision is unique. It should describe a student's wishes for a fulfilling life. In the case of the parent/ally, a vision is for the student they support.

A vision can be reviewed and updated many times. Some are long, while others may consist of only a few paragraphs. In an article by Wendy Stroeve, (see resources) she describes a vision as a kind of compass to keep us focussed on the student's journey of inclusion.

## Steps to creating a vision statement

1. It is important to recognise that a vision statement must reflect a young person's dreams and goals to achieve 'a good life'. It can enable a student to equitably access the school curriculum and mainstream school experiences.
2. A vision statement can identify both broad and specific goals (e.g., to pursue further studies at TAFE or University after leaving school. This vision is clear and consistent with what the student wants and where they want to head.
3. The choices a student makes are facilitated by a clear vision statement. It is helpful to make the vision statement a written document.
4. Recognise that vision statements can be changed, expanded on and re-written as much as needed.
5. Never put limits on a student dreaming in terms of their vision and ensure personal strengths and skills are emphasised.
6. When formulating a vision statement, keep expectations high rather than set low expectations. Aim for age- appropriate expectations.
7. Family, allies, or members of a student's circle of support could help a student with preparing a vision statement.
8. Vision statements might need renewing before significant transition times for a student. Commencing primary or high school presents significant changes and potential need for reviewed goals.

## Vision as an Advocacy Tool

A clear vision statement enables a student to communicate clearly his or her ideas, goals and wishes for an education on the same basis as their peer group. The vision can be used to ensure an inclusive experience at school is kept on track. It can require hard work and vigilance to keep the dreams and wishes of the young person alive, so that the suggestions and pressure from others do not replace choice and control for the student.

## Resources

Bob Jackson - [Planning and Making Choices Handbook 1](#)

Wendy Stroeve - [Article 'Clarity of Vision A compass for Journey'](#)