



Resources for students planning for university who have a chronic medical condition

- ✦ arthritis ✦ asthma ✦ cancer ✦ chronic fatigue syndrome ✦
- ✦ crohn's disease ✦ cerebral palsy ✦ cystic fibrosis ✦ diabetes ✦
- ✦ epilepsy ✦ multiple sclerosis ✦ muscular dystrophy ✦
- ✦ spina bifida ✦ and many more...

You may not think of yourself as having a 'disability' but the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act is broad and includes chronic medical conditions such as those listed above. At University, the people who can give you information and support are located within Disability Services. If you have a chronic medical condition, it will be important to consider how you will manage stress and keep yourself as well as possible

DURING YEARS 11 and 12

- ✓ Check out the **Get Ready for Uni** website: www.uws.edu.au/ndco/getready
- ✓ Plan to go to **University Info Days** (usually in August/September) and meet the disability staff.
- ✓ **University Disability Staff** are available to meet with prospective students. Once you know which universities you are interested in, consider making an appointment during your term breaks. Contact details:
www.adcet.edu.au/Uni_Disability_Advisers.chpx
- ✓ **Educational Access Scheme:**
UAC recognises disability and chronic medical conditions as a long term educational disadvantage and this scheme may help you get into the course you want to. The application form for this is submitted via UAC. At your school, the person who can help you with this is:

WHO DO I TELL and WHO CAN HELP at Uni?

- **Disclosure: It's a Personal Choice** www.uws.edu.au/ndco/disclosure
At Uni, you don't have to tell everyone everything. It's a much bigger place than school so it's important to think through what you want people to know. This website will help you think through what you would like to do so your privacy is protected and you get the help you may need.

➤ **Disability Services**

If you need adjustments to your study because of your condition (eg extensions on assignments, extra time in exams, etc) you will need to register with the Disability Services at Uni and provide current medical documentation. The staff will explain the process – you can choose if you want to disclose the name of your condition and its impacts on you OR if you would rather just disclose its impacts (eg the condition is episodic in nature, the side effects of medication may impair concentration and cause drowsiness, etc).

Even if you don't think you will need any adjustments, it's good to plan ahead and speak with someone about how things work at uni. When you meet with Disability Services staff it is confidential.

➤ **Making an Appointment**

You will need to make an appointment to see a Disability Advisor. It's recommended that you book at least two weeks ahead. You can see a Disability Advisor any time in Year 11 or 12. Once you are registered, a good strategy might be to make the next appointment before you leave their office.

RESOURCES:

➤ **Towards Success in Tertiary Study:**

www.services.unimelb.edu.au/studentequity/success/medical.html

This is a series of guides for students with a range of disabilities including chronic medical conditions.

➤ **Livewire:** www.livewire.org.au

Livewire is a free and safe online community for young people up to age 21 living with a serious illness, chronic condition or disability. It's a supportive place where you can meet new friends and share experiences with young people going through similar experiences. To join go to www.livewire.org.au or for more information contact the Livewire team on 02 8425 5971.

➤ **ACI Health Transition Care:** www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/transition/

In NSW there are Transition Coordinators who help young adults with chronic medical conditions make the transition from paediatric to adult health care. If you have not seen one of them and would like to, follow the links on their website.

➤ **National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO):** Your NDCO can answer questions you have about your transition from school to Uni. To find your local NDCO in NSW/ACT: www.yourownpathtosuccess.com



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations



National Disability Coordination Officer Program



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