Our approach

Education Queensland provides physiotherapy services to students with disabilities enrolled in state schools.

These services focus on the enhancement of education programs and outcomes for students with disabilities. These students may have problems with posture and movement, which affect their access and participation at school.

Further information

All physiotherapy services provided by Education Queensland are subject to information contained in the document Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Services in State Schools available from the Education Policy and Procedures Register www.education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/

Contact us

For local physiotherapy services contact:
• school principal
• Head of Special Education Services
• Regional Office or District Office.

Your local physiotherapist is:

For information about statewide physiotherapy services contact: Senior Physiotherapy Officers
Phone: (07) 3240 9333   Fax: (07) 3240 9300

Education Queensland
Physiotherapy Services
students/disabilities/staff/pt.html
Physiotherapy

Physiotherapists in schools:

- aim to develop physical performance and prerequisite skills for function in children and adolescents at school
- work as members of the educational team which includes student, parent/carer, teacher, teacher aides and other specialist support personnel
- support other members of the education team to develop the students’ Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- assist the team to adapt school activities to achieve students’ education goals
- consult with and provide resources to school staff, parents/carers and the school community
- liaise with other agencies that provide services to students with disabilities.

Physiotherapists look at the reasons students find it difficult to access the curriculum and participate in education programs offered.

To do this, physiotherapists assess students’ abilities within the school environment. They may look at students:

- working in classrooms
- moving around the school
- playing during breaks
- participating in physical education classes.

Physiotherapists use specialised knowledge of:

- posture
- senses of the body
- nerves, muscles, joints and bones
- movement
- coordination and balance
- fitness
- pain.

Services

To contribute to students’ educational programs, physiotherapists may:

- advise on choice of chairs, specialised seating or standing equipment
- advise on the best posture to allow the student to participate in classroom activities such as writing and active listening
- advise on mobility within the classroom and school grounds
- recommend changes to the school environment to allow the student’s involvement in school activities
- prevent or reduce the chance of further disability through intervention such as providing orthoses and advice on activities and positioning for school activities
- discuss and provide training on aspects of manual handling for the individual student’s participation in school activities
- suggest changes to existing education programs to meet specific student needs
- assist with the choice and use of assistive technology to enhance independent mobility, communication, play, recreation and computer access
- enhance students’ confidence and self-esteem by working towards maximum independence in the school setting.

Physiotherapists also have a role in:

- preparing of students for work or further study after leaving school
- developing the student’s recreation and leisure pursuits
- monitoring the student’s health and fitness.