



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Assistance Animal National Principles

Consultation Paper





Australian Government
Department of Social Services

The Australian Government Department of Social Services wrote this.

We say **DSS** for short.

When you see the word **we** it means DSS.



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

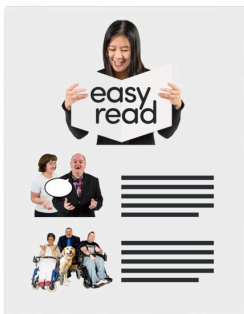
Bold

Not bold

We have some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



We can answer any questions by email.

Email us

sector.engagement@dss.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- A friend
- Family members
- A support person.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on.



They were the **first people** to live on and use the

- Land
- Waters.

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About Assistance Animals



Assistance animals are animals that are trained to support people with disability to be

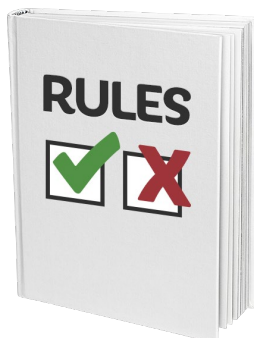
- **Independent**
- Happy and healthy.

Independent means being able to do things on your own.



Assistance animals are usually dogs.

Sometimes other animals can be assistance animals.



There is a **law** that tells us how to know if an animal is an assistance animal.

Laws are **rules** for how we live.



The law says there are 2 ways to tell.

1. The animal is **accredited** to assist a person with disability

Accredited means someone has come to check that the rules have been followed.

This is done by someone in the state or territory you live in.



2. The animal

- Is trained to assist a person with disability
- Has learned how to behave in public spaces
- Is clean and looked after.



States and territories have different rules for assistance animals to be accredited.

Some states and territories do **not** have any rules.

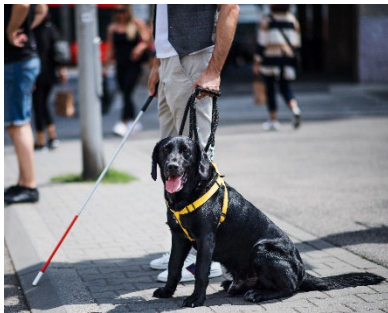


This makes it hard for

- People with disability who use assistance animals



- Other people to know what animals may be assistance animals.



We think if the rules were the same everywhere it would make it easier for

- People who use assistance animals



- Everyone to know what animals may be assistance animals.

How we made the Principles



In 2021 we talked with the community about assistance animals.

We wanted to hear from people who have assistance animals.



That information helped us write the **Assistance Animal Principles**.

We call it the **Principles** for short.

Principles say how something **should work**.



We worked with

- State and territory governments
- Other areas of the government.

This helped us come up with the Principles.



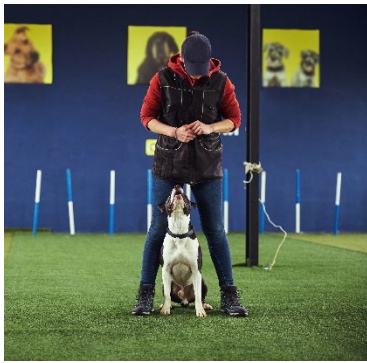
The Principles would be rules that states and territories follow.

The Principles



We have 6 Principles.

They are



1. To have the same rules across Australia about

- How animals are trained
- Who can train them.



2. To have the same rules across Australia for what training they need.



3. To have the same **Public Access Test** for all of Australia.

We call it **PAT** for short.

This makes sure they are safe to be in the community.



4. To have the same **evidence** needed for

- What disability you have
- Why you need an assistance animal.

Evidence is proof that something is true.



5. To have a card and logo for all of Australia.

This will make it easier to tell which animals are assistance animals.



6. That the assistance animal is happy and healthy for their life.

How we will work on the Principles



We want to hear what you think about the Principles.

This could be ideas about

- How we can make the Principles better
- Information that will help make them work well in the community.



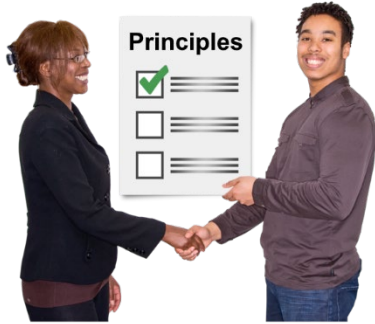
We will write a report about

- The things we have heard
- How the ideas have helped.



When we have finished working on the Principles we will share them with the state and territory Disability **Ministers**.

Ministers are leaders in an area of the government.



The Disability Ministers will be asked to agree to the Principles.



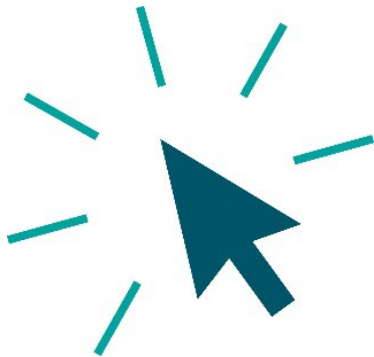
We will work with states and territories to help them follow the principles.

Some states will need to make more changes than others to follow the Principles.

How to tell us your ideas

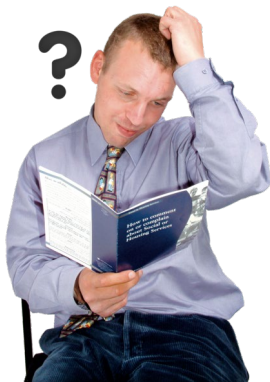


We want to hear your ideas about the Principles.



You can go to our website to fill it out online.

<https://engage.dss.gov.au/assistance-animal-national-principles>



If you

- Can **not** fill it in online
- Want to fill it in a different way

You can contact us.

You can send us an email.



sector.engagement@dss.gov.au



Write us a letter.

Assistance Animal National Principles
Advocacy and Inclusion Programs Branch
Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
In your capital city



We might share your ideas with the community.

When you write your ideas you will be asked if you would like your ideas

- To be shared with your name
- To be shared **without** your name



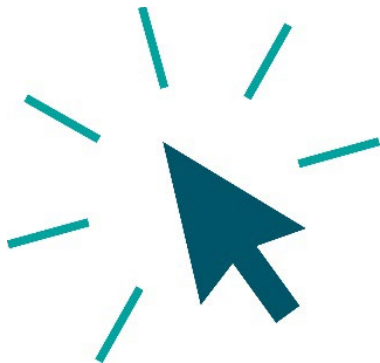
Sharing without your name is called being **anonymous**.



- **Not** to be shared.



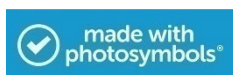
We will keep any information you share with us safe.



You can go to our website to learn more about how we keep information safe.

It is **not** Easy Read.

www.dss.gov.au/using-our-website/privacy-policy



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