

Research Report

What school leaders think about teaching genetics to students with intellectual disability



This booklet is a **research report**



Research is something we do to find out

- what people think about something.



The full research is called

"School Leaders' Insights on Teaching Health and Genetic Health Literacy to Students with Intellectual Disability"



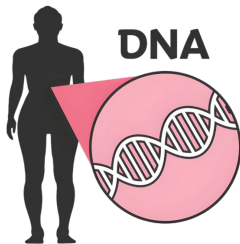
This research is about what **school leaders** think

- about students with intellectual disability learning about health and genetics.



School leaders work at schools.

They help decide what students learn at school.



Genetics is the study of **genes** and how they work.



Genes are the things in your body that make you the way you are.



In this booklet we will explain

- Why we did the research
- What did we do
- How did we do it
- What we found out
- How to make things better.

Why we did the research



Everyone has a right to learn about their health.



People with intellectual disability want to learn

- about their health.

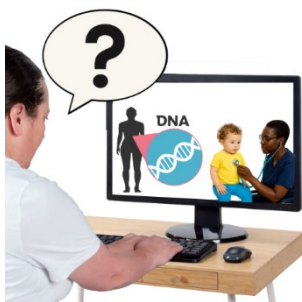


Schools are a good place to learn about health and **genetics**.

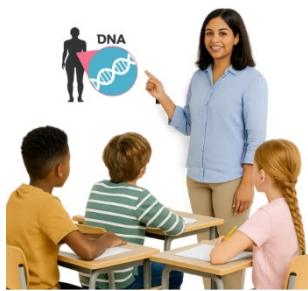


Many students with intellectual disability

- do not learn about health or genetics at school.



This means they had to find things out on their own.



We talked to teachers before this study.

Teachers told us it can be hard to teach about health.



We wanted to hear from school leaders because

- they help decide what schools teach
- they support teachers and students.



Examples of school leaders are

- principals
- assistant principal
- special education leader
- head of department
- learning support coordinator.

How did we do it



We talked to 12 school leaders.

They work in New South Wales and Queensland.



We asked them about teaching health to students with intellectual disability.



The questions were about

- how their school supports students with intellectual disability



- how they support teachers teach about health



- what helps students learn



- what makes it hard for students to learn about health



- who else can support students learn about health.

What we found out



School leaders think that learning about health is very important.



It helps students

- look after their body



- have good relationships



- stay safe



- make choices about their own health



School leaders told us that teachers do not know

- how to teach health or genetics.



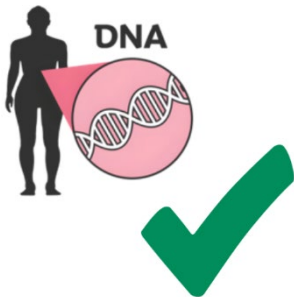
Teachers need

- more training
- more time to organise their classes
- more resources
- someone to help them explain hard topics.





School leaders also told us what helps.



It helps when more people at school think health and genetics are important.



It also helps if the whole school can work together

- and help each other.



Another thing that helps is when **stakeholders** talk to each other.



Stakeholders are people that are important for students with intellectual disability.



Examples of stakeholders are

- families and carers
- doctors
- teachers.



Families and carers know about what the students

- like and do not like.



Doctors know about the health of the students.



Teachers know

- what students learn and do not learn.



Stakeholders can help teach health and genetics

- if they work together.



It also helps when teachers

- have good resources
- learn more about how to teach health and genetics.

How to make things better



Every student should learn about health and genetics at school.



Health and genetics should be about the students.



It also should be about real decisions

- they have to make about their health.



Teachers should get training to feel more confident

- about teaching health and genetics.



School leaders should listen to what students want.



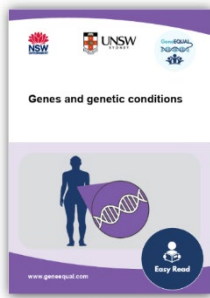
Schools should work together with stakeholders.

Resources that can help



There are Easy Read booklets that can help students with intellectual disability

- learn about health and genetics.



1. Genes and genetic conditions

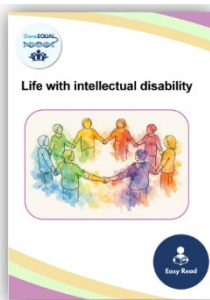
This booklet explains

- what genes are
- how genes can affect your health.



You can find the booklet here

<https://geneequal.com/wp-content/uploads/UNSW-ER-GeneEQUAL-Genes-and-genetic-conditions-Digital.pdf>



2. Life with intellectual disability



People with intellectual disability wrote this booklet



It is about

- what it is like to live with intellectual disability.



It also talks about

- health
- positive things
- challenges.



This booklet can help people with and without intellectual disability

- understand what it means to have intellectual disability.



You can find the booklet here

<https://geneequal.com/genetic-resources/life-with-intellectual-disability/>



3. Council for intellectual disability resources



The Council for intellectual disability is also known as CID.



CID made resources about health.



You can find them here:

<https://cid.org.au/resource-category/health/>

More information



The GeneEQUAL team made this booklet.



The GeneEQUAL website has

- more information



You can go to

www.genequal.com

- or scan the QR code.



If you have questions about this research



You can email

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