

## Referrals for Guide Dogs Victoria services in Victorian schools

Guide Dogs Victoria can provide a variety of supports for eligible students in State schools in Victoria.

These supports can include:

- In-school orientation and mobility training
- Professional learning for school personnel
- Environmental assessments of school grounds and buildings

If any orientation and mobility training is required by students out of school, this should be organised independently through O&M providers. Orientation and mobility training required for community access (general cane training, sport, work experience, public transport training, walking to and from school) is funded through NDIS. Agencies providing O & M services include Guide Dogs Victoria, Vision Australia and independent providers.

When schools or Visiting Teachers (Vision) identify a need for such supports, the Visiting Teacher should first seek signed consent from the student's family and the school. The form can be found under the [Support available at school](#) page on our website. The Visiting Teacher then makes an application for the requested service/s through the SVRC Tracking System, attaching the consent form.

This application is then reviewed by a panel of experts at SVRC. Consideration is given to the justification provided for the support and the amount of GDV hours already accessed by this student in the last twelve months. Preference for these supports is given to students who have had a change in vision necessitating new skills, change of school or campus, and who have not had the same or similar supports in the last twelve months.

The review panel might seek further information from the applicant (the VT), before making their decision to approve or not approve the application. The applicant is then informed of the outcome and, if approved, the support is provided by GDV in the school to the student.

## Guide Dogs Referral Flowchart

