

Types of Impairments



An impairment can be intellectual, psychiatric, physical, neurological or sensory. It may be temporary, intermittent or ongoing. People may acquire an impairment through an accident or illness, and/or a person may be born with an impairment. Multiple impairments are common, especially with increasing age.

Physically Disabled:

Includes people who may or may not use a mobility aid like a wheelchair, crutches or prosthetic limbs, or those who are blind or who experience low vision.

Neurodivergent people:

Includes people who process information differently to what is expected or considered to be “typical”. Dyslexia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), dyspraxia, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) are all common neurodivergent conditions.

People with an Intellectual / learning disability:

Includes people who have a lifelong cognitive impairment that impacts on their ability to learn and process new information and learn new skills. This may require them to need support with daily living.

Psychosocial disability and / or Mental distress:

Includes people who experience ongoing impacts of a mental health condition and / or short term or episodic mental distress.

People who are d/Deaf, hard of hearing (HoH) or who experience hearing loss:

Includes people who identify as part of the Deaf Community, including its culture and language and those who experience functional hearing loss.

People with Acquired or Traumatic Brain Injury:

Includes people whose brain injury is due to either a medical condition or illness (acquired brain injury), or an accident or incident that has involved Chronic Illness, a long term health condition or other invisible impairment.
