



SCIENCE AND  
INDUSTRY  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND



# STEM Community Partnerships Program

## Camden local scenario

### Disability in High School

According to the 2016 Census, 4.3% of the population in the Camden local government area required assistance in their day to day lives due to disability. The Education Council review of students with a disability in 2017 identified that 18.8% of students receive an adjustment to participate in education due to their disability. This equates to approximately 2,000 high school students in the Camden region. There are different categories of disability ranging from sensory, physical, neurological, intellectual, cognitive and psychiatric, with each student possibly requiring different range of supports and services to participate as an active member of the school community. Schools may not have the facilities or trained staff to meet all these needs. Research by the Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education reports “clear and consistent evidence that inclusive educational settings can confer substantial short and long-term benefits for students with and without disabilities”. The Camden Council has a Disability Inclusion Action Plan that focuses on the attitudes and behaviour of the community, creating liveable communities within the Camden region, supporting access to meaningful employment and implementing better systems and processes to improve access. For high school students there may be requirements not yet identified in their action plan.

Camden Council has the challenge to ensure they provide the relevant services and activities to cater for these students.



Camden Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021

### Your task

Your task is to use the information above, and resources provided below as a start to identify a local problem and design a STEM-focussed solution.

(Question, Design, Explore, Communicate)

## Resources

### CSIRO research

- Socially Assistive Robots to Enhance Learning for Secondary Students with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism <https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/BF/Areas/Digital-health/Supporting-hospital-and-health-systems/Social-Robots-Support-Children-with-Autism> see full report <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8525743>
- AI for health, ageing and disability <https://www.csiro.au/en/News/News-releases/2019/AI-for-health-infrastructure-and-natural-resources-key-to-Australias-future-prosperity>

### Reports

- Camden Council website <https://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/community/support/people-with-disability/>
- Camden Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 – 2021 <https://indd.adobe.com/view/954630e0-db5a-4b0c-bd01-8b85f51f5a20>
- Census data Camden [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA11450](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA11450)
- Education Council 2017 Report <http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Reports%20and%20publications/Publications/Glossy%202017%20NCCD%20Public%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>
- NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/acts/2014-41.pdf>
- NSW Disability, Learning and Support <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support/secondary>

### Articles

- SMH Jordan Baker 'Disabled students suspended at high rates in NSW Schools' 01/10/19 <https://www.smh.com.au/education/disabled-students-suspended-at-high-rates-in-nsw-schools-20190930-p52wcc.html>
- The Daily Telegraph 'Council encourages disability inclusion conversation' 29/02/19 <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/macarthur/council-encourages-disability-inclusion-conversation/news-story/9f97e858022285649e5aaf0d1b4baaa7>
- Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education 'Inclusive Education – What Does the Research Say?' <http://allmeansall.org.au/research/>