# Department of Human Services SA

# Report it Right

Guidelines for portraying people with disability

When a person lives with disability, it does not define who they are. People with disability are not one homogenous group. Always ask a person about their needs and their preference for how they would like to be referred to.

## Consider using

* Has… (the disability)
* Lives with… (the disability)
* People with disability
* Disability Community
* Person with lived experience of disability.
* People who are deaf
* People who are hearing impaired
* The Deaf community
* Non-verbal
* A person living with epilepsy
* People who are blind
* The Blind community
* People who are vision impaired
* Wheelchair user
* A person with cerebral palsy
* Seizure
* Autism
* Autistic
* If identity-first language is preferred: Autistic person
* If person-first language is preferred: person with autism or person on the autism spectrum

### For example

Mr Jamison, who lives with cerebral palsy, has been a wheelchair user for 10 years.

## Instead of

* Suffers from/Sufferer
* Victim (when used to refer to disability)
* Afflicted with
* Disease
* De-personalising collective labels such as: The disabled, The handicapped, Invalid, Special needs
* The deaf
* A deaf person
* Dumb
* The blind
* Visually impaired
* Confined to a wheelchair
* Wheelchair-bound.
* Cerebral palsy sufferer
* Fit, attack or spell
* Severe autism, high function autism and low functioning autism are not official diagnostic terms, do not provide a constructive view of a person on the autism spectrum and do not speak to the specific challenges or abilities of the individual.

### For example

Mr Jamieson suffers from cerebral palsy and has been wheelchair-bound for 10 years.

## More information

For a full list of current terms and more information on inclusive reporting, please [visit the Inclusive SA website](https://inclusive.sa.gov.au/resources/templates).