

The structure of the NDSA



The NDSA has several layers, including the Executive, Members, and Subcommittees. Here's a layout of how the National Disabled Students' Association works:

The Alumni Subcommittee

Every year, Members and Executives vote in an Alumni Committee of past Executives, who help approve our annual Strategic Plan, and guide the NDSA on our direction

Vocational Learner Subcommittee (VLS)

Our VLS is self-governing, formed by and for vocational learners. The Subcommittee provides a voice and a network for the unique experiences of vocational learners.

The Executive

The Executive is voted in every year by our Voting Members. It consists of five individuals:

Co-Presidents	Relations Officer (RO)	Engagement Officer (EO)	Administration Officer (AO)
The Co-Presidents work together to help run the NDSA and make day-to-day decisions	The RO works with external organisations and institutes towards helping disabled students	The EO works directly with our Members, helps with Members' Council, and works on our social media	The AO does important behind-the-scenes work, like seeking grant funding, doing minutes, and reviewing policy

Our Members

We have four types of membership at the NDSA



Voting Members

Our Voting Members are often the ultimate decision-makers in the NDSA, deciding on our direction, Executives, and annual budget. Every institution gets **one** Voting Member

Organisational Members

- When your institution (where you learn) has a group such as a disabled students' association or club. May have their own membership structure.
- Members can send delegates (someone else in their group) to attend meetings if they can't make it
- One or two people become the contact point for the NDSA, and one vote is shared between the group

Representative Members

- When your institution (where you learn) doesn't have a group to represent students
- May be a student suggested by disability services staff, the students' association, or several other students to **represent other learners** at their institution
- This is often the case for smaller institutions, or where disabled students' associations are still being formed

Non-Voting Members

Our Non-Voting Members are either individuals or groups from institutions that have a Voting Member, or are organisations who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NDSA. Non-Voting Members play an important role in advising and guiding the NDSA, and can attend Members' Council to provide their perspectives

Independent Members

- Where someone isn't an Organisation or Representative Member, but still wants to be a part of the NDSA
- Plays an important role in guiding the NDSA, but doesn't vote on the Members' Council, or Annual and Special General Meetings
- Still receives information, such as through emails and social media, and can attend events

Observing Members

- Often groups such as other students' associations or education-related organisations that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding
- Help to provide the NDSA with expertise from an organisation perspective
- Helps to extend our connections and involve the wider community in achieving our goals towards equitable education for learners