All About Easy Read

Easy Read is a way of communicating information in an easy-to-read way. It combines text with a simple layout and imagery to explain information.

Easy Read is designed to help more people access information in a way that is accessible to them. It is used most commonly to present information to people who have an intellectual disability but can also be useful for presenting information to people who have low literacy or who are not familiar with English.

Presenting information in Easy Read format is important. Having access to Easy Read information ensures people with intellectual disability can have access to the same information as others. The way in which Easy Read information is presented can help people with intellectual disability to understand complex information, take part in the conversation and make decisions.

Example: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care ensured information relating to the availability and recommendation of the COVID-19 vaccination were available in Easy Read. This helped to ensure those with intellectual disability had access to the same information – and can make the same informed decisions – as those without intellectual disability.

If you want to create resources in Easy Read, it's important that you work with people and organisations who work with and employ people with intellectual disability.

Easy Read professionals are experienced in connecting simple words and sentences with imagery to help users understand the information being presented. They will also be able to connect with specific user groups for whom your information is intended to research and review the easy read information.

You will notice that there are some special characteristics about information presented in easy read:

- Simple sentences are written adjacent to images – both the images and the text carry meaning and are designed to be interpreted together
- Difficult words are highlighted in bold. The word in bold is then explained in the next sentence.
- Information does not include questions or acronyms
- The font size is large – typically 14-16 points – and line spacing of 1.5 is used.

The below example is taken from People with Disability Australia's Compliments, Complaints and Feedback Easy Read document.

More Information

The following organisations can help you learn about or create Easy Read resource.

Council for Intellectual Disability	www.cid.org.au
Developmental Disability WA	www.ddwa.org.au

South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability   www.saicd.org.au

Speak Out Easy Read   www.speakoutadvocacy.org

VALID   www.valid.org.au