**Physiotherapy in the Department of Education**

Hi, I'm Katherine.

I'm a physiotherapist working for the Department of Education in Queensland.

Thanks for joining me to find out more about our physiotherapy service in the department.

As school based physiotherapists, we help students learn to move, so that they can move to learn.

We support students with disability in state schools to achieve the best outcomes from their education, from their early years right up to when they are moving on to their post-school life.

We help students to access and participate in classroom learning and all school activities, such
as swimming and athletics carnivals, cross-country, playing with friends during breaks, and attending school camps and excursions.

We assist schools to make adjustments so that students can engage in learning, achieve and belong at school.

Through education, brainstorming, modelling and providing program suggestions, we support teachers to develop student's personalized learning programs and help with teaching strategies.

This all happens within the student's learning environment.

As physios, we have specialist knowledge of posture and movement, nervous and sensory systems, balance, coordination, awareness of body position, wellbeing, fitness, growth and development and pain management.

We use this knowledge to assess the school environment, advise about sport and play and help with students classroom furniture and seating.

We assess and instruct school staff on how to safely assist a student with physical disability to change positions and move around their school.

We also help schools in choosing and using assistive technology, managing health conditions and supporting a student to return to school after serious injury or surgery.

Best practice supports are those that are culturally appropriate and provided as a result of interaction with educators, support staff, the student, their family or carers and other team members such as the student’s external health providers.

This builds the capability of the team and ensures good programs are developed and continually monitored so that students receive relevant, goal focused support.

If you would like to find out more about physiotherapy in Queensland state schools, please head to the Department of Education website.