



# ATL NATIONAL DIRECTORY

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## LISTING GUIDELINES

Assisting you in completing your  
Professional Membership application

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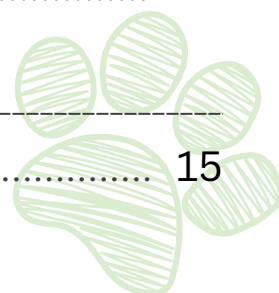
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# INTRODUCTION



When you join as an ATL Professional Member and list your business in the ATL National Directory you will need to provide details about your animal-assisted service.

When ticking “qualified to assist with” please ensure your services accurately reflect your training, experience and human qualifications. This will help users and referring agencies quickly and easily find the support they are looking for.

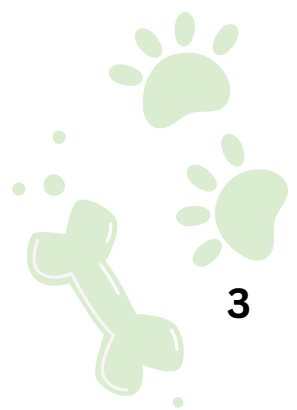
## The requirements for registering in the ATL National Directory are:

- Professional Membership, agreeing to abide by the ATL Professional Member terms and conditions
- Agree to abide by the ATL Code of Ethics
- Agree to abide by the ATL Code of Conduct
- Agree to abide by the ATL Terms of Use
- Hold current business insurance
- Only tick conditions that you are qualified to assist with in accordance with these guidelines.
- Have undertaken the necessary training to work alongside animals in this service delivery.
- Have assessed your animals as suitable.
- Review and update your listing in the ATL National Directory at a **minimum once a year or at renewal** in line with these guidelines and add in any additional training undertaken.
- Commitment to ongoing professional development by registering to attend the annual ATL Virtual Conference, free for members.

A **First Aid Certificate** is recommended for all animal-assisted practitioners.

Please make sure that all your **contact details**, including your website and social media, are accurate.

**Note:** uploaded photos cannot be more than 2MB.



# CATEGORIES FOR LISTING



## ASSISTANCE ANIMAL TRAINER AND ASSESSOR

**Definition:** An assistance animal is a trained support designed to facilitate the participation of people with disability in accessing various aspects of personal and public life. They are sometimes mistaken as a pet but provide an essential function for some people with disability (Commonwealth of Australia, 1992).

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) (DDA) in Section 9, sets out the legal definition of an assistance animal as a dog or other animal that:

- (a) is accredited under a State or Territory law to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of disability; or
- (b) is accredited by an animal training organisation prescribed in the regulations; or
- (c) is trained to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability and meets standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place.

### When ticking assistance animal trainer and assessor on the ATL National Directory:

- Not have committed an animal welfare offence in Australia.
- Hold the skills and experience to train and assess assistance animals and demonstrate ongoing professional development in this area.
- Have a relevant qualification from a registered training organisation, preferably a Certificate IV in animal behaviour and training or a Certificate III with relevant experience related to working with assistance animals; or have a minimum of 5 years experience training assistance animal handlers.
- Use only force-free methods when training or working with assistance animals.
- Be able to work with persons with a disability, including holding a valid Working with Vulnerable People card or an equivalent card required in your specific state/territory.
- Offer ongoing support to clients.
- Maintain secure record keeping in relation to all assistance animal applicants and clients.



# ADDICTION

**Definition:** Long-term condition characterised by compulsive drug/ alcohol seeking or engaging in a behaviour, despite harmful consequences, due to long-lasting changes in the brain (Volkow et al., 2016).

## Required qualifications for ticking ‘qualified to assist with’ addictions:

### **Animal-assisted therapist**

Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.

### **Animal-assisted activities service provider**

Where service involves animal visits to support mental well-being, and certificate in Alcohol and other drugs or the relevant experience.

### **Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator**

- Certification in the delivery of a specific animal-assisted learning program and holds a certificate in alcohol and other drugs or other relevant qualifications/ experience; or
- Qualified teacher, trainer, mentor or coach, trained to work alongside animals and holds a certificate in alcohol and other drugs or has relevant experience.

### **Assistance animal trainer and assessor**

Where the drug and alcohol addiction is unmanaged, **assistance animals are not recommended.**



## COGNITIVE OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

**Definition:** Disabilities affecting thinking, learning, judgment, decision-making, problem-solving, language, and adaptive behaviours (NDIS, 2025).

**When ticking cognitive/intellectual disability including: Dementia/ Alzheimer's, TBI, learning difficulties and communication skills, you must have the qualifications listed below.**

### Required qualifications when ticking 'qualified to assist with':

#### **Animal-assisted therapist**

Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.

#### **Animal-assisted activities service provider**

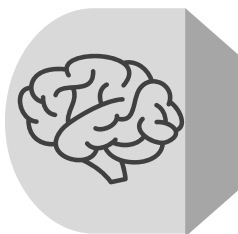
Where service involves animal visits to support well-being, further training relevant to the target population is recommended.

#### **Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator**

- Certification in the delivery of a specific animal-assisted learning program aimed at supporting cognitive and intellectual disabilities; or
- Specialist education teacher, or qualified disability worker trained to work alongside animals.

#### **Assistance animal trainer and assessor**

Assistance animal trainer and assessor.



## DIAGNOSED PSYCHIATRIC CONDITIONS

**Definition:** Characterised by a clinically significant disturbance in an individual’s cognition, emotional regulation or behaviour as **diagnosed by a health professional** (WHO, 2022).

**When ticking psychiatric conditions including:** Post-traumatic stress, diagnosed anxiety, clinical depression, bipolar, psychological injury, complex trauma and other psychiatric conditions, **you must have the qualifications listed below.**

### Required qualifications when ticking ‘qualified to assist with’:

#### **Animal-assisted therapist**

Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.

#### **Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator**

Psychiatric conditions should not be ticked unless services are delivered by a registered health professional

#### **Animal-assisted activities service provider**

Psychiatric conditions should not be ticked unless services are delivered by a registered health professional

#### **Assistance animal trainer and assessor**

Assistance animal trainer and assessor with Mental Health First Aid Certificate.



## DISENGAGED LEARNERS OR TROUBLED YOUTH

**Definition:** Individuals who exhibit a withdrawal from educational and social environments, often due to personal, familial, or systemic factors, leading to decreased academic performance and social participation (Victorian Department of Health, 2021).

### Required qualifications when ticking ‘qualified to assist with’ disengaged learners or troubled youth:

<p><b>Animal-assisted therapist</b></p>	<p><b>Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator</b></p>
<p>Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification in the delivery of a specific animal-assisted learning program aimed at supporting disengaged learners or troubled youth and Mental Health First Aid Certificate; or</li> <li>• Qualified Community Services Worker, Education Support worker or qualified teacher, mentor or coach trained to work alongside animals with Mental Health First Aid Certificate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Animal-assisted activities service provider</b></p>	<p><b>Assistance animal trainer and assessor</b></p>
<p>Where service involves animal visits to support well-being, further training relevant to the target population is recommended.</p>	<p>Not relevant, unless client is diagnosed with a disability.</p>





# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

**Definition:** Mental health is a state of well-being that allows individuals to cope with the stresses of life, recognise their strengths, learn effectively, and actively contribute to their community (WHO, 2022).

**When ticking mental health support including:** Psychosocial disability, adversity, grief, social and emotional skills, experiencing stressful circumstances, chronic pain, loneliness, corporate wellness, aged care and hospitalisation, **you must have the qualifications listed below.**

## Required qualifications when ticking 'qualified to assist with':

<b>Animal-assisted therapist</b>	<b>Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator</b>
Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certification in the delivery of a specific animal-assisted learning program aimed at supporting mental health and well-being; or</li><li>• Qualified teacher, trainer, mentor, or psychosocial recovery coach, with Mental Health First Aid Certificate, or Suicide prevention training, or Trauma-aware training and training working alongside animals.</li></ul>
<b>Animal-assisted activities service provider</b>	<b>Assistance animal trainer and assessor</b>
Where service involves animal visits to support mental well-being, further training as above is strongly recommended such as Mental Health First Aid Certificate; or Suicide prevention training; or Trauma-informed care training.	Assistance animal trainer and assessor with Mental Health First Aid Certificate.



# NEURODIVERSITY

**Definition:** Differences in the way the nervous system processes information, affecting attention, communication, and learning styles (NDIS, 2025).

**When ticking neurodiversity including:** Autism, ADHD, social and emotional skills, learning and developmental difficulties, communication skills/ leadership and speech and language pathologies, **you must have the qualifications listed below.**

## Required qualifications when ticking 'qualified to assist with':

### **Animal-assisted therapist**

Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.

### **Animal-assisted activities service provider**

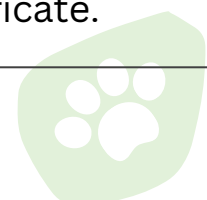
Where service involves animal visits to support mental well-being, further training where relevant.

### **Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator**

- Certification in the delivery of a specific animal-assisted learning program aimed at supporting neurodiverse participant goals; or
- Qualified Disability or Community Services Worker, Education Support worker or qualified teacher, mentor or coach trained to work alongside animals with experience in neurodiversity

### **Assistance animal trainer and assessor**

Assistance animal trainer and assessor with Mental Health First Aid Certificate.





## PHYSICAL DISABILITY

**Definition:** Limitations in moving or controlling parts of the body, which can impact stamina, mobility, and daily activities (NDIS, 2025).

**When ticking physical disability including:** Traumatic brain injury (TBI), physical injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, chronic pain, pain management, diabetes, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, vision or hearing impairments, seizures, allergies and speech and language pathologies, **you must have the qualifications listed below.**

### Required qualifications when ticking ‘qualified to assist with’:

#### **Animal-assisted therapist**

Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.

#### **Animal-assisted activities service provider**

Where service involves animal visits to support well-being, further training relevant to the target population is recommended.

#### **Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator**

- Certification in the delivery of a specific animal-assisted learning program aimed at supporting physical health and well-being and First Aid Certificate; or
- Qualified Disability or Community Services Worker, qualified teacher, trainer or coach trained to work alongside animals with First Aid Certificate

#### **Assistance animal trainer and assessor**

Assistance animal trainer and assessor, preferably with First Aid Certificate.



## SKILLS BUILDING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Definition:** The process of acquiring, refining and applying new abilities to improve competence in specific fields as well as improving self-awareness, skills and knowledge to enhance performance and adaptability (Noe, 2022; Robbins & Judge, 2022).

**When ticking skills building and personal development including:** Communication skills / leadership, social & emotional Skills, learning & development, **you must have the qualifications listed below.**

### Required qualifications when ticking ‘qualified to assist with’:

<b>Animal-assisted therapist</b>
Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.

<b>Animal-assisted activities service provider</b>
Not relevant.

<b>Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certification in the delivery of a specific animal-assisted learning program aimed at supporting skills development and personal growth; or</li><li>• Qualified teacher, trainer, mentor, paraprofessional or coach, trained to work alongside animals</li></ul>

<b>Assistance animal trainer and assessor</b>
Not relevant.



## VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

**Definition:** Peer support activities have the potential to positively influence the well-being of veterans, serving members, and their families on a holistic level across multiple domains (Mercier et al., 2023).

**When ticking veterans and first responders, you must have experience working with or being employed as part of the defence or first responder community.**

### Required qualifications when ticking 'qualified to assist with':

#### **Animal-assisted therapist**

Qualifications held by a health professional registered with a regulation agency or an Australian peak body.

#### **Animal-assisted activities service provider**

Where service involves animal visits to support well-being, further training relevant to the target population is recommended.

#### **Animal-assisted learning facilitator / educator**

- Certification in the delivery of a specific animal-assisted learning program aimed at defence or first responder communities; or
- Qualified facilitator, mentor, trainer or coach with Mental Health First Aid Certificate; or trauma aware/ suicide prevention training and trained to work alongside animals.

#### **Assistance animal trainer and assessor**

Assistance animal trainer and assessor with Mental Health First Aid Certificate.

# NDIS DISABILITY CRITERIA

According to NDIS (2025), to meet the disability requirements, evidence must link the disability to at least one of these impairments:

- **Intellectual:** relates to speaking, listening, reading, writing, problem solving, and memory
- **Cognitive:** relates to thinking, learning, decision making and attention
- **Neurological:** functioning of the nervous system
- **Sensory:** relates to vision and hearing
- **Physical:** ability to move body parts
- **Psychosocial disability:** reduced capacity to perform daily activities due to mental health



# REFERENCES



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