



Mater Dei

Inclusion for all



Mater Dei School

Mater Dei is a co-educational Catholic Congregational school located in the Wollongong Diocese under the auspices of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan whose ethos is based on the Rule of St Benedict. Our culture is one of peace, prayer, service, hospitality and stewardship. Our Mission is to offer an individual and holistic education in a safe, non-threatening environment for students from Kindergarten to Year 12 who have been assessed with Mild to Moderate Cognitive Disability. This is deemed to be the student's primary Disability, although a student may present with dual diagnosis, eg Down Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder, and/or secondary disabilities including sensory or mobility impairment, mental health issues, emotional or behavioural needs.

The underpinning philosophy of every student's enrolment at Mater Dei School is inclusion into the wider community. This philosophy is founded on providing and maintaining an atmosphere of dignity, respect, equity, social justice and advocacy for the students entrusted into our care. It exemplifies our commitment to the uniqueness and potential of the individual person and the critical impact of self-esteem on each student's stage of development. At Mater Dei School we work collaboratively with families and carers valuing their knowledge, input and competence as the primary educators. We aim to develop a sense of community at Mater Dei and to establish strong partnerships with our colleagues and friends in neighbouring schools and local businesses. We also strive to empower students to live as independently as possible in the least restrictive and most stimulating environment.

Mater Dei School offers small class groupings with Pastoral Teachers responsible for successful teaching and learning situations in Religion Education and all Key Learning Areas. Functional and academic programs are delivered with students receiving instruction individually, in small groups and whole class settings. Pastoral Teachers facilitate students' Individual Service Plans (ISPs) and Individual Transition Plans (ITPs) then prepare, teach, assess and evaluate students' Individual Education Programs (IEPs). Students participate in various aspects of Mater Dei School's inclusion program such as Community Access, Inclusive Schooling and Structured Work Placement.

Mater Dei School's curriculum is based on Board of Studies courses that are adjusted according to the priority outcomes of the students' ISPs. Incorporated into the Primary, Secondary and Post-Compulsory Programs offered at Mater Dei School, are the Kindergarten Program and the Year 11/12 Satellite Class. The Kindergarten Program is designed for students who are age-ready to begin Kindergarten but who do not have school readiness skills. We establish partnerships with the school of the parents' choice to facilitate their child's transition into a mainstream setting. The Satellite Class gives senior students an opportunity to access an educational program in a mainstream setting.

Mater Dei School is accredited to offer the School Certificate (Life Skills) whilst students in Years 11 & 12 are eligible to access the Preliminary Certificate and the Higher School Certificate (Life Skills). Mater Dei School offers the Vocational Education & Training (VET) course, Business Services, that is recognised by Industry and the Board of Studies. Students in Year 12 are also eligible to apply for ATLAS Funding in their graduation year.



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The Family Resource & Residential Program (FRP)

The Mission of the FRP is to provide individualised living skills programs for students, in partnership with their families and school, in order to prepare them for independent and interdependent living in the community of their choice.

Each student's strengths and needs are identified and prioritised by the student, the family, carers, school staff and FRP staff, through the Individual Service Plan (ISP) and Individual Transition Plan (ITP) process, every six to twelve months.

Student programs are monitored by the Family Resource Worker and student priority outcomes may be identified in the following areas:

- participation
- personal care
- household tasks
- recreation and leisure
- communication and socialization
- community access

These programs may occur in the family home, at school, in the residence or in the community and aim to provide consistent support, education and training across all areas of students' lives.

The Family Resource and Residential Program operates four houses in the Macarthur area. Each house accommodates five students at any one time, ranging in age from 12 to 18 years. The houses operate from Monday evening to Friday morning during the School Term and are staffed by Social Educators.

Placements are flexible and may be for 1, 2, 3 or 4 nights per week with the length of stay ranging from one School Term to a number of years.

Details of Residences

Berallier	CAMDEN SOUTH
Richardson	NARELLAN
Teralba	LEUMEAH
Woolpack	ELDERSLIE

Schedule of Residential Fees for 2009

RESIDENTIAL FEES	Age 12 to 16 yrs	\$ 5141.00 pa (4 nights/wk)
		\$ 3855.75 pa (3 nights/wk)
		\$ 2570.50 pa (2 nights/wk)
		\$ 1285.25 pa (1 night/wk)
	Age 16 to 18 yrs	\$ 7203.00 pa (4 nights/wk)
		\$ 5402.25 pa (3 nights/wk)
		\$ 3601.50 pa (2 nights/wk)
		\$ 1800.75 pa (1 night/wk)



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Obtaining A Psychometric Assessment & Diagnosis of Autism (if applicable)

Psychometric Assessment

A student's Psychometric Assessment may be:

- Griffith Mental Developmental Scales for students up to 7 years
- WPPSI – R for students up to 7 years
- Stanford-Binet for students over 7 years
- WISC-III or WISC-IV for students over 7 years.

If your child is enrolled in an Early Intervention Centre, the Director of the Centre may be able to assist you in obtaining a Psychometric Assessment. If your child is enrolled in a State School, the School Counsellor will be able to provide a Psychometric Assessment.

Assessments may also be available from:

- The Department of Community Services
- The Autism Association
- Your child's Paediatrician.

Diagnosis of Autism

We need a copy of the original diagnosis of Autism (no matter how old) or a letter from a Paediatrician or Specialist Doctor stating that the student is on the Autism Spectrum. A letter or report from ASPECT is also acceptable



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Mater Dei Standard Collection Notice

1. Mater Dei collects personal information, including sensitive information about pupils and parents or guardians before and during the course of a pupil's enrolment at Mater Dei. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable Mater Dei to provide schooling for your son/daughter.
2. Some of the information we collect is to satisfy the school's legal obligations, particularly to enable Mater Dei to discharge its duty of care.
3. Certain laws governing or relating to the operation of schools require that certain information be collected. These include Public Health and Child Protection laws.
4. Health information about pupils is sensitive information within the terms of the National Privacy Principles under the Privacy Act. We ask you to provide medical reports about pupils from time to time.
5. The School from time to time discloses personal and sensitive information to others for administrative and educational purposes. This includes other schools, government departments, Catholic Education Offices, the Catholic Education Commission, your local diocese and the parish, Schools within our Diocese/other Diocese, medical practitioners, Collection Agencies [after consultation with parents] and people providing services to the School, including specialist visiting teachers, [sports] coaches, volunteers, taxi drivers and counsellors.
6. If we do not obtain the information referred to above we may not be able to enrol or continue the enrolment of your son/daughter.
7. Personal information collected from pupils is regularly disclosed to their parents or guardians. On occasions information and photographs relating to academic and sporting achievements, pupil activities and other news is published in School newsletters, magazines and on our web-site.
8. Parents may seek access to personal information collected about them and their son/daughter by contacting Mater Dei. Pupils may also seek access to personal information about them. However, there will be occasions when access is denied. Such occasions would include where access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of others, where access may result in a breach of Mater Dei's duty of care to the pupil, or where pupils have provided information in confidence.
9. As you may know Mater Dei from time to time engages in fundraising activities. Information received from you may be used to make an appeal to you. Information may also be disclosed to organisations that assist in the Mater Dei's fundraising activities solely for that purpose. We will not disclose your personal information to third parties for their own marketing purposes without your consent.
10. Mater Dei may include your contact details in a class list and/or School directory.
11. If you provide Mater Dei with the personal information of others, such as doctors or emergency contacts, we encourage you to inform them that you are disclosing such information. They should also be made aware of why this information is being provided, that they can access that information if they wish and that Mater Dei may be required to disclose the information to third parties in some circumstances.