

# Life giving social education programs



**Inclusive Schooling programs at Mater Dei in 2007 - Senior students take to the water to learn the art of canoeing with their main-stream peers.**

**M**ater Dei's social education programs provide students with opportunities to grow in confidence, build social networks and develop work readiness skills that will greatly assist them as they move beyond school. The most valuable gift that we can provide to children and people with disabilities are the skills to help them make a contribution in their local communities and to feel that they have a place in their community. These programs aim to provide all Mater Dei students with these skills.

The Community Access Program provides students with regular opportunities that include shopping trips, visits to local services such as the public library, council chambers, police station, banking, travel training, learning the process of paying bills and developing money skills in the community context.

The Inclusive Schooling Program offers students the opportunity to spend time in a regular school environment as part of a regular class each week. The students greatly benefit from the opportunity to work and socialize, often with their brother, sister or neighbours. Currently 7 schools are involved in this program with Mater Dei.

The Structured Work Placement Program enables our senior students to attend work at least one day a week and learn skills such as socialization, punctuality and grooming in a workplace environment. Currently 15 employers are involved in this program.