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ARRUNGA INCLUSION PROGRAM

A program designed to meet the individual needs of students at St Monica's College, Epping



SECONDARY SCHOOL CAN BE CHALLENGING FOR STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM.

The Arrunga Inclusion Program focuses on the achievement of positive academic, social and emotional outcomes for each student to maximise access to further education and employment success. Many students with Autism Spectrum Disorder find the secondary school environment confusing and difficult to navigate. Research has demonstrated that without sufficient support, these students are often left feeling isolated.

Another role of the Arrunga Inclusion Program is to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorders within the school community. The program aims to reflect our Strategic Plan which vows to 'leave no child behind' and to foster an environment where students' differences are accepted and individual talents are appreciated and developed.

The program is staffed with specialist teachers and experienced Learning Support Officers.

THERE ARE TWO INTEGRAL STRATEGIES OFFERED WITHIN THE ARRUNGA INCLUSION PROGRAM.

1. Social and Emotional Program

An age appropriate social skills program has been adapted from the evidence based on "Secret Agent Society". This program is delivered by registered practitioners through small group sessions. The students gain knowledge, skills and understanding of topics such as social thinking, friendships, emotions and understanding anxiety.

2. Arrunga Collaborative Class

Arrunga Collaborative Classes accommodate the individual learning needs of students in small groups and collaborative learning environments for English and Mathematics. A program teacher will run the small group classes as required and collaborate with mainstream classes in other lessons.

ARRUNGA SPACE

The students will also have access to the Arrunga quiet room, a newly supervised area, where students are able to unwind to reduce anxiety if needed, and to use as a safe place at unstructured times such as recess and lunch.

Places in this program are limited. Invitations to join the program for suitable students will be determined by a panel chaired by the Principal in Term 4 each year.

The program will be evaluated each year with modifications made, depending on the specific needs of students.