SAINT MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGES
WAGGA WAGGA K - 12

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

Definition

The definition of "disability" is found in the Australian Government's Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and includes a person who has lost total or partial bodily or mental functions, loss of a part of the body, malfunction of one's body resulting in a person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction.

Rationale

Students with disabilities have a right to education and to have their individual needs addressed. The responsibility for the well-being and successful outcomes for these students is shared by all members of the school community.

Policy

Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges recognises it has a pastoral or professional responsibility to cater for the educational needs of all its students. In particular, SMMC makes every effort to provide those students with a disability appropriate educational access that will allow them to be successfully engaged in their learning with a program designed to maximise educational outcomes and pathways.

Aims

- To create a learning environment and deliver a curriculum that meets the needs of all it students.
- To provide an educational practice that recognises the unique identity of each student, inclusive of students with a disability by tailoring a program that meets their special requirements.
- To provide the necessary educational leadership to develop a culture of inclusion in the school community.

Implementation

- Decision making regarding resourcing shall be based on student needs and the principles of inclusion, access, equity and participation. In this regard SMMC will make every effort to seek appropriate funding that will enable tailoring a suitable

educational program for students with disabilities. In doing so it will listen to and learn from the student in shaping an appropriate program.

- All curriculum programs will be inclusive of all students.
- Professional development relating to relevant disabilities will be conducted periodically.
- The Primary Principal and Secondary Coordinator will be assigned to coordinate the school's disabilities program, including working with families and the community professionals to identify and respond to students who require specific adjustments to the learning program and to resource allocation.
- The Primary Principal and Secondary Coordinator will involve other staff as required; for example, Pastoral Care counsellors.
- SMMC will work with the student, family and professionals to explore transition options and post- school pathways which support life-long learning and wellbeing.