



Thank you for considering Margaret Jurd College for your young person. Our application form is attached.

Who we are

Margaret Jurd College originated as a Ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia. A registered Non-Government Secondary Special School, providing young people with an option of alternative education in a caring and supportive environment that empowers them to make confident, positive choices.

Students have a diagnosis at a level that gives them disability status, making them eligible for enrolment at a special school; these include, but are not limited to a diagnosis of Mental Health, Intellectual Disability, Learning Disabilities and Autism.

Our model is a blended model of education and case management support. Our College currently delivers years 9 through to 12. Our Vision and Mission Statements underpin all that we do:

VISION STATEMENT

Creating positive futures together.

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing young people with an option of alternative, holistic education in a caring, supportive environment that empowers them to make confident, positive choices.

VALUES

Faith – Confident hope in the effectiveness of compassionate action.

Justice/Equity – Never settling for disadvantage.

Respect – Unconditional acceptance of individuals.

Enrichment – Creating enhanced opportunities.

Who can apply?

Students who apply to attend Margaret Jurd College, are those who find that mainstream schooling is not suited to their individual educational and wellbeing needs.

Students who attend the college are assessed based on individual needs, including academic, social, emotional and diagnostic needs.

Our College caters for students from year 9 to year 12.

Enrolment Process

All applications are processed in line with the *Margaret Jurd College Enrolment Policy*. If the application is successful parents/caregivers will be issued with an *Offer of Enrolment Contract* containing the College's conditions of enrolment. This document must be signed and returned prior to student commencement.

We understand how busy life can be, therefore we have made our enrolment process quick and easy with three simple steps.

1. Your Application Form completed and returned to enrolment@mjc.nsw.edu.au.

If you would like to speak to someone regarding the school and the enrolment process please call Gillian (Administration) or Alison (Wellbeing Coordinator) on 02 4951 7314. The following documentation is required to accompany an application:

- A copy of the student's birth certificate (original to be sighted).
 - Up to date immunisation records (if available).
 - A copy of all current Psychological and Educational reports.
2. Initial meeting – a meeting between the College, the student and the parents/caregivers. At this meeting we will discuss what the student's needs are and how the school can best support them. A tour of the school is also provided to prospective students and their families at this time.
 3. Enrolment meeting- where forms and information including *Offer of Enrolment Contract* and permission notes are signed by students and the parents/caregivers

Education Program

This program is delivered by teachers employed for their specific areas of expertise and commitment to disadvantaged young people. Students are provided with an alternative education program covering the NSW Curriculum.

Individual programs are created with the student, their family and staff to ensure that all of the students' individual needs are targeted.

The program is developed in a way that the individual learning needs of all students are addressed through innovative teaching strategies. This ensures that students are able to engage in learning and gain a practical understanding of the work covered.

Within a small school setting teachers are able to individually address the academic needs of each student and curriculum adjustments are implemented to address individual student needs.

Teachers and Teachers Aids

The College employs highly experienced and dedicated teachers who use innovative programming and teaching styles which allows them to engage student learning in ways that are not possible in mainstream school settings. They have proven established classroom management practices that support students who struggle to learn in their previous classroom setting.

Each classroom has a teachers aid who is there to support the students with their learning needs.

Welfare Program

The College provides a daily breakfast for all students as well as fresh fruit for morning and afternoon tea. Students are also provided fresh lunch daily that is made to order.

Each student is provided with the full school uniform and shoes free of charge.

The College can also offer students and their families with financial aid on a need's basis.

Caseworkers

All students are paired with a caseworker prior to beginning at the school. Caseworkers support students to set goals and take steps towards achieving them. They work with students when they are struggling with everyday issues such as conflict, relationship breakdowns, mental health, and social issues. With the help of caseworkers, students are able to develop and implement strategies and supports to help them manage their everyday issues and meet their emotional needs.

Each caseworker is trained in different aspects of mental health and trauma to best support the student. Working with a caseworker at Margaret Jurd College allows the student to have one-on-one support as needed to help them identify what is going on for them and how they can make positive changes. By engaging in casework, students learn how to look forward to a future and understand that they have other choices in life that were not available to them in a mainstream school setting.

College fees

Although Margaret Jurd College is a private College we endeavor to keep our fees as low as possible so as not to add an extra burden to our families. The College fees are \$30.00 per week.

Fees cover the following:

- Sport
- Excursions
- Educational resources
- Transport costs to and from sport and excursions.

N.B. The College maintains the right to review the College fees at any time and remain subject to change. The College will provide one terms' written notice of any intention to increase fees. If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can apply for College fees to be subsidised or waived.

History

Margaret Jurd College was born out of a vision to empower young people through supported education and care. Newcastle Youth Service (NYS) was a street service supporting young people at risk within the Newcastle Area. Established as a ministry of the Hamilton Uniting Church Parish, the service quickly became a vital part of the Youth Welfare Sector in Newcastle.

In 1985 the Board of NYS commenced a tutorial service in Carrington, using the premises of the old Carrington Club Hotel as an extension of the service. The need for supported alternative education comprising an accommodation service quickly became apparent. Margaret Jurd College was moved to its Lambton premises and grew from a Tutorial Centre to a registered school in 1996.

The vision and drive from the beginning came from Dr. Margaret Jurd; a Doctor of Psychology who was integral in every step of the NYS story. Dr. Jurd's reputation for her work within the Department of Education and Newcastle University established her as a widely respected figure among the community. The College was named in her honour after her passing and continues to grow in the direction inspired by her.