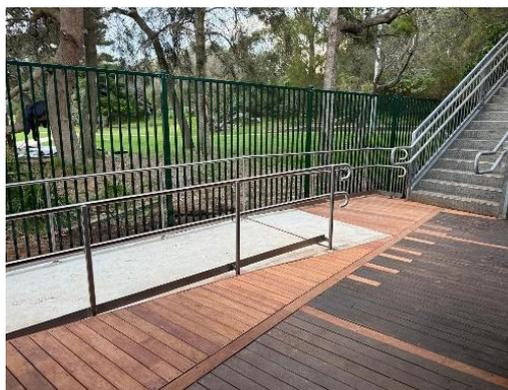


Inclusive Montessori Blog #1: Supporting Inclusion at the school where I work

I work in a small Montessori community – our school has approximately 80 students from 0-12 years old. It is nestled behind the sand dunes in Nth Avalon beach in Northern Sydney. We are fortunate to offer a community owned Montessori Program and that has been operating for 40 years.

The main entrance of our school had not been updated since it was originally built. The small set of stairs made it inaccessible for anyone who could not navigate steps.



The property boundary and placement of the school building made it challenging to install a ramp that met accessibility requirements. However, after many months of consultation, we now have a wide, fully accessible ramp inside the school gates.

Whilst we explored funding options for our school, in the end the project was self-funded. At the time of the ramp installation, we also gained consent from the local council to create a new paved path connecting to what is colloquially known as 'the Yellow Brick Road'—a walkway linking North Avalon to Avalon Beach and the village shops. Through successful consultation with the Council, we also secured the addition of a designated disabled parking spot with direct access to the main path and our school.



"After more than a year of consultation with local authorities, designers, consultants, and staff, we are thrilled to have a fully accessible main entrance to our school. It's a meaningful step forward and one important item checked off our 'Inclusive Ready' school plan." Melissa Chandler, BMS Principal.



Phillippa