



Artist impression of the Tirriwirri School

Tirriwirri School: new K-12 School for Specific Purposes at Queanbeyan opening in 2021

Project update

December 2020

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$7 billion over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver more than 200 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

The NSW Department of Education is committed to delivering new and upgraded schools for communities across NSW. The delivery of these important projects is essential to the future learning needs of our students and supports growth in the local economy.

Project overview

The recently named Tirriwirri School is a new K-12 SSP located between Karabar High School and Queanbeyan South Public School. Tirriwirri School will provide specialist and intensive support in a dedicated setting for students with moderate to high learning and support needs.

The project will deliver:

- seven learning spaces for Kindergarten through to Year 12
- break out spaces for students and staff
- interactive outdoor learning areas
- special programs rooms for activity-based learning
- a library and gym area
- school café
- administration and staff area.

Progress summary

This project is due to be completed in early 2021.

Tirriwirri School will be ready and open for students in February, 2021.

Visit our website schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/q/queanbeyan-ssp.html to view an animated fly-through video of the new school and its facilities.

Announcing the naming of Tirriwirri School

After consultation with local school principals, the Queanbeyan Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group and Ngambri-Ngunnawal Indigenous elder Matilda House, the new SSP was named Tirriwirri School to highlight the strong connection with the Ngunnawal people, the traditional owners of the land upon which the school is built.

Tirriwirri is the Ngunnawal word for the 'Ironbark Tree' and traditionally used to describe strength, determination and courage. Ironbark trees are significant to the local area, with Ironbark timber often used by the Ngunnawal people to provide shelter.

For more information contact:

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Meet the Principal Gabrielle Sheather

It is an honour to introduce myself as the founding principal of Tirriwirri School.

Our school will be a caring community with a strong focus on wellbeing fostering an environment where students can feel comfortable and confident to express their individuality. Students will be supported to achieve the best learning and wellbeing outcomes possible through individualised learning programs developed in consultation with their parents/carers.

I look forward to welcoming everyone to our inclusively designed learning environments that will facilitate innovative, high-quality teaching and learning practices and provide the best possible educational opportunities for all students.



Frequently asked questions

What is a School for Specific Purpose (SSP)?

Schools for specific purposes, previously known as special schools, provide specialist and intensive support in a dedicated setting for students with moderate to high learning and support needs.

Schools for specific purposes support students with intellectual disability. They cater for students from Kindergarten to Year 12 who meet the Department of Education's disability criteria.

How many students will be in one class?

Specialist support classes in schools have fewer students than mainstream classes. Class sizes depend on the class type and, in some cases, the students' additional learning and support needs.

How will the school support my child's individual needs?

Every specialist class has a teacher and a school learning support officer. Class teachers – in consultation with parents or carers and allied health professionals, where appropriate – are responsible for planning personalised learning and support for each student.

Students also have access to itinerant support teachers (hearing or vision) and access to transport assistance under the Assisted School Travel Program.

How do I know if my child is eligible to attend Tirriwirri School?

A student's eligibility is determined through the Department's disability criteria as well as the availability of a place in an appropriate specialist support class.

Schools for specific purposes review the placement of each student annually. Reviews consider all aspects of a student's personalised learning and support, including whether or not the current placement is best meeting their learning and support needs.

How do I enrol my child?

Applications for placement are through the Access Request process. An Access Request is arranged by the school learning and support team at the local public school.

Where can I find more information about learning and support for my child?

Further information can be found on the NSW Department of Education website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support>.