



Bendigo Special Developmental School
"A place of excellence in education that creates
inclusive communities and success for all"

NEWSLETTER #8
FRIDAY 13TH JUNE
2025

PRINCIPAL:
KIRSHY MCAINCH
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
REBECCA QUINN



26-32 LOCKWOOD RD, KANGAROO FLAT, VIC, 3550



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 BENDIGO.SDS@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU



@BENDIGOSPECIALDEVELOPMENTALSCHOOL



03 5447 3267



03 5447 7286

LAST DAY OF TERM 2

FRIDAY 4TH JULY - 2PM FINISH

BUSES WILL DROP OFF 1 HOUR EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON

TERM DATES

TERM 2

Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 4th July

TERM 3

**Monday 21st July - Friday 19th
September**

SAVE THE DATE

Monday 16th June

School Council Meeting

Friday 4th July

Last Day of Term 2 - 2pm Finish

BUSES WILL DROP OFF 1 HOUR EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON

Sunday 6th - Sunday 13th July

NAIDOC Week

Monday 21st July

First Day of Term 3

OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

DRIVING LEARNING
GROWTH

UNITING TO ACHIEVE
EXCELLENCE

ENSURING EQUITY OF
OPPORTUNITY

VALUING DIVERSITY WITH
KINDNESS AND RESPECT



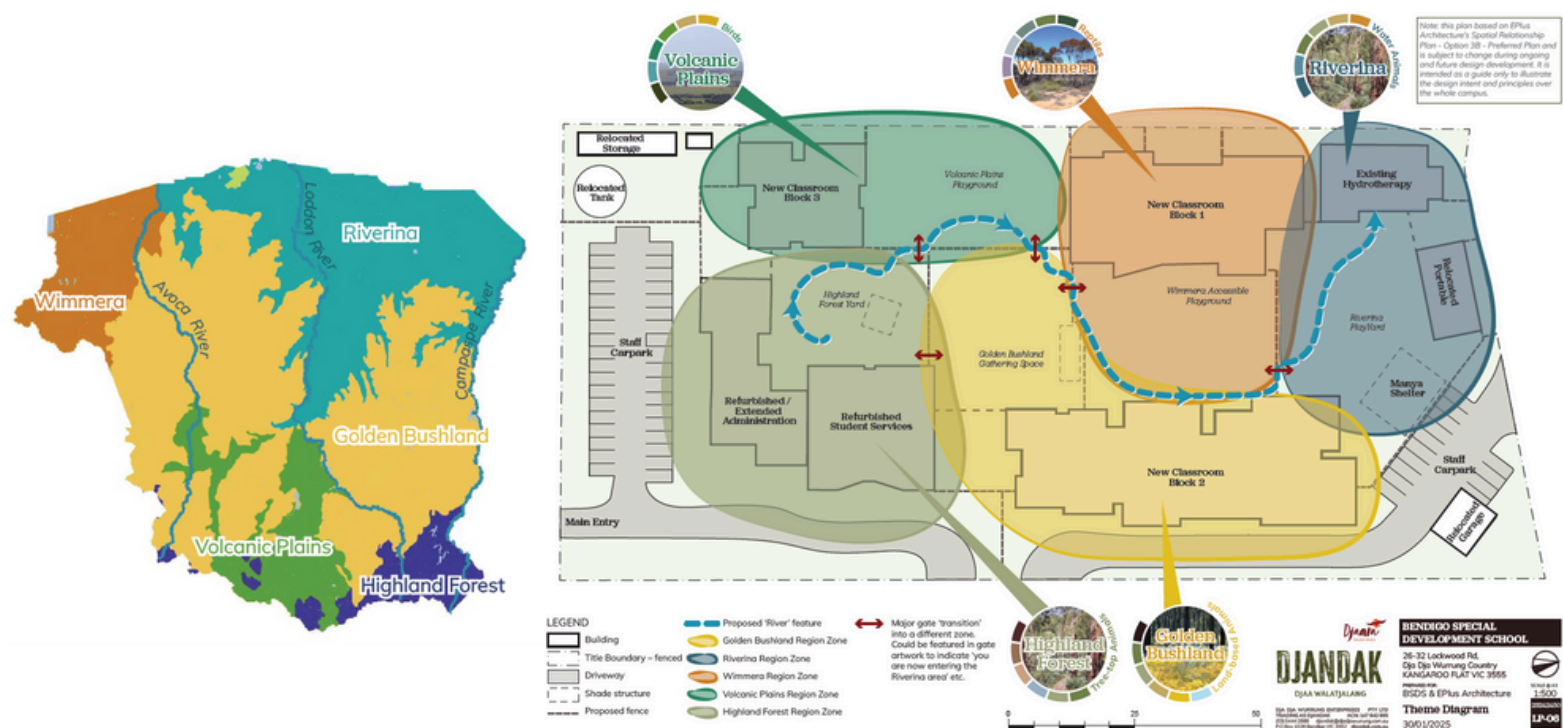
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



DJA DJA WURRUNG CULTURAL DESIGN GUIDE FOR OUR NEW BUILDING

You will recall in the last newsletter I shared that, as part of our Reconciliation Week activities, I had met with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to share details of a Culturally Informed Design Guide for our new school. I am so excited to now be sharing this with you all. This Culturally Informed Design Guide honours and reflects the landscapes of the land on which our school is based, and on which we work, learn and play; Dja Dja Wurrung Country, 'Djandak'.

The guide has been created in partnership with Djaara community members and is rooted in traditional knowledge, geography, and ecology. It outlines five key landscape zones—Golden Bushland, Riverina, Wimmera, Volcanic Plains, and Highland Forest—each based on distinct Victorian bioregions which align to a map of Dja Dja Wurrung Country. Each zone has been given a Djali name in Dja Dja Wurrung language, helping us to connect more deeply with Country and embed Indigenous culture across the school's design and identity.



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DJA DJA WURRUNG CULTURAL DESIGN GUIDE FOR OUR NEW BUILDING CONT.

The guide provides a themed overview for each zone, including suggested plant species, materials, textures, and colours that can be used in future building projects and outdoor play areas. Central to the concept is a symbolic 'river' that flows through each zone, with bridges, sensory elements, and gathering spaces designed to provide moments of calm, cultural learning, and inclusive play. These elements will support all students—especially those with sensory needs—and reinforce a sense of identity and connection with the natural environment.

This Design Guide is more than a blueprint for physical development—it will influence how we name buildings, create art and signage, and even how we deliver elements of our curriculum. Students will learn and play within spaces inspired by the animals, plants, and stories of Djandak. Cultural landmarks like the central yarning circle and event spaces will provide settings for learning and celebration during NAIDOC Week and other events. With continued engagement with Djaara people, we aim to ensure that our school not only respects but actively celebrates the cultural heritage of the land we are on, creating a place of pride, belonging, and learning for all.

mali bu djanip - 'mallee & myall Country'

The Wimmera landscape is characterised by its semi-arid climate and unique geological formations. Open woodlands and mallee scrublands dominate the landscape, interspersed with grasslands and saltbush plains. Key plant species include Mallee eucalypts, Saltbush and Bluebush, adapted to the region's low rainfall, high evaporation rates and ancient sandy soils.



Key Landscapes / Locations

- Lake Buloke
- Avoca River

Key EVC's

- 803 - Plains Woodland
- 826 - Plains Savannah
- 97 - Semi-arid Woodland
- 103 - Riverine Chenopod Woodland
- 88 - Healthy Mallee
- 132 - Plains Grassland

Material / Texture / Colour

Grey blue foliage dominates the understorey in the Wimmera environment with sandy light coloured soils.

Form

Design form cues could be developed from Mallee-form eucalyptus wide branching limbs. Buloke and Banksia's provide striking flower & seed form.

Key Plant Species

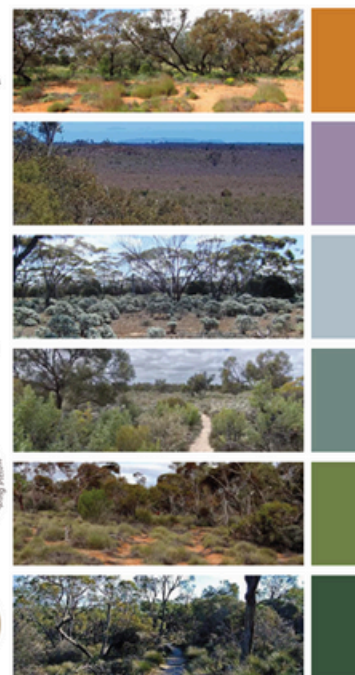
- Allocasuarina leucomallus / Buloke
- Eucalyptus arenacea / Desert Stringybark
- Banksia marginata / Silver Banksia
- Pittosporum angustifolium / Weeping Pittosporum
- Arthropodium strictum / Chocolate Lily
- Atriplex semibaccata / Berry Saltbush
- Enchlyana tomentosa / Ruby Saltbush
- Maireana enchlyanoides / Wingless Bluebush



Animal Theme - Reptiles



Animals for this area include Goanna, Turtle, Blue Tongue Lizard, Snake, Bearded Dragon, Lace Monitor & Stumpy Tail Lizard



Wimmera

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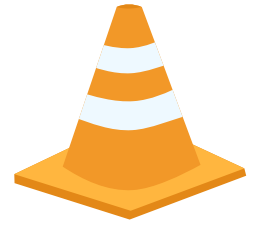
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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Our new 'mali bu djanip' building is looking amazing! Most of the plaster walls are up, some of them have been painted, especially in the wet areas, and the floating ceiling is starting to be installed in the classrooms. You can see from the pictures that the main corridor and gather space at the south end of the building is very high, which lets in a huge amount of natural light, reducing the need for fluorescent globes. The cupboards are being added to the different spaces, and you will see the natural wood colours and the light blue 'hue' of the salt bush being represented. On the outside, the external cladding is in place. What you can see is the finished colour as the product is design to 'weather' with age over the years. The two Resource Intensive Learning Areas (RILAs) have been decided upon with the Library and an Arts space being chosen. This way, all students are able to use and experience the new building. The outdoor playground with all of its exciting play opportunities is nearing completion, and we are hoping that this will be ticked off by the playground inspector for the start of Term 3. We know this is going to be so exciting for all of our students. Next Friday, 20th June, Maree Edwards, Member for Bendigo West and the Speaker of the House, will be making a visit on behalf of the Minister of Education to tour the new building and talk about the next steps for realising the entire master plan.



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SWPBS GOLD AWARD

This is the last thing in my Principal's Report this week, but it is by no means the least. In fact, the awarding at Assembly today of the Gold School Wide Positive Behaviour Award to our school is the end result of 10 plus years of hard work, dedication, learning and engagement by our whole school community, and successive SWPBS leadership teams. As you all know, this is a key pillar of our school, and as a reminder, SWPBS (School-wide Positive Behaviour Support) is an evidence-based framework designed to help schools create positive, safe, and fair settings where students and teachers can thrive. It focuses on teaching and encouraging positive behaviour, supporting all students, and providing extra help to those who need it. By doing this, SWPBS helps improve behaviour, wellbeing, and academic success.

The current SWPBS leadership team is heading up by Tomas Napolitano and before him, Angie Kloft, and the last three years has seen us progress from Bronze, to Silver to GOLD! This is a very high standard to meet and is accredited by the Department of Education as follows: Schools achieving Gold have demonstrated sustained SWPBS Tier 1 foundations and classroom systems and meeting key fidelity measures. Applying for Gold is contingent upon the school having achieved Silver or Gold in the preceding year. In celebrating GOLD for the first of hopefully, many times, I would like to give a shout out of thanks to all of those who have contributed so much to our SWPBS journey over many years, including Jackie Righetti, Jenny Annett, Hamish Morcom, Leah Thomas and all of the current members of the SWPBS leadership team who have successfully steered this course over the last three years; Tomas Napolitano, Angie Kloft, Xiao Zhang, Michael Ring, Marion Draper, Stacey West, Andrea Brasher and Tyler Dempster!



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BUSES

| BUS | DRIVER/CHAPERONE | TELEPHONE |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| HEATHCOTE | GARY & JODIE | 0435 900 890 |
| HUNTLY | HELEN & NICOLE | 0428 261 802 |
| FRYERSTOWN/CASTLEMAINE | DAVID & JULIE | 0409 421 500 |
| KYNETON | LENNY & JOANNE | 0490 093 472 |
| LOCKWOOD | ANGELA & KIM | 0490 092 273 |
| STRATHFIELDSAYE | STEVE & TRISH | 0490 705 019 |
| SERPENTINE | PETER & JANINE | 0497 663 736 |
| SPRING GULLY | CHRIS & HEATHER | 0490 702 728 |
| WEDDERBURN | BERNARD & MICHELLE | 0466 367 656 |

BENDIGO CINEMAS - SENSORY FRIENDLY FILMS

Sensory Friendly Films

Bendigo Cinemas are proud to bring Sensory Friendly Films to those on the autism spectrum.

Sensory Friendly Sessions allow families to enjoy their favourite films in a safe and accepting environment with the cinema lights turned up and the sound turned down low.

Bendigo Cinemas now offer discounted pricing for Vrewards members - \$6 for Vrewards members (\$7.50 for non-members).

Look for the "Sensory Friendly Film" icon (SFF) next to the session times to see which cinemas and sessions are screening these films.

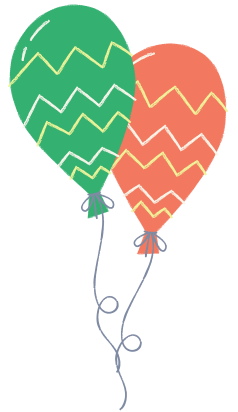


Sunday 22nd June



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 15 June | Sara M | ESS | 15 June | Alexandra | Room 16 |
| 16 June | Brianna | Room 8 | 18 June | Hunter | Room 12 |
| 19 June | Gayle | Teacher | 20 June | Chelsea | Teacher |
| 22 June | Gabriel | Room 13 | 24 June | Ester | Room 10 |
| 24 June | Kattie | Room 12 | 25 June | Gab | Teacher |
| 27 June | Rhylan | Room 8 | | | |



**Forms will need to be returned by Thursday 19th June
for your 2025 application to be processed /
applicable to new applications only**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$154 for primary school students
- \$256 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School Ref ID

Parent/carer details

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Surname | |
| First Name | |
| Address | |
| Town/Suburb | |
| State and Postcode | |
| Contact Number | |

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

☐ Foster Parent* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

Student details

| Child's surname | Child's first name | Student ID | Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy) | Year level |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders.

I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date ____/____/2025

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund eligibility

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 - Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a mature minor of sixteen years of age or over, a parent or carer of a student attending a registered government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term 1; or
 - on the first day of Term 2.
- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder; or
- b) Be a temporary foster parent; and
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF): Eligibility | education.vic.gov.au

Mature minors or parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between 6 and 17 years of age inclusive. For the purposes of

CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between 5 and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students' attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooling, or TAFE.

Eligibility date

For concession card holders, CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (see [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Policy | education.vic.gov.au](http://education.vic.gov.au)).

Payment amounts

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

The CSEF is paid directly to the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. Please refer to the policy for the current rates.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see:

[Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts | education.vic.gov.au](http://education.vic.gov.au)

Foundation and Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents, so please register your interest at the school.

How to complete the application form

Note: all sections must be completed by parent/carer

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.

Privacy Statement

The Department of Education is committed to protecting your privacy. All information collected will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Data and Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). Your data is securely managed and only shared with third parties when necessary for business operations or legal compliance. By submitting this form, you consent to our data practices. For more information regarding correction to your personal information or the handling of personal information please email csef@education.vic.gov.au. For more information about the departments privacy policy, please visit: [Schools' privacy policy | vic.gov.au](https://schools.privacy.policy.vic.gov.au)

School Saving Bonus



HAVE YOU USED YOUR \$400 SCHOOL SAVING BONUS YET?

If you wish to use your School Saving Bonus towards your student/s school (winter) uniforms, please visit
Centavic Clothing.

Trading Hours: Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm

2/1 Whip Court, Long Gully, VIC 3550

sales@centavicclothing.com.au

03 5441 7555

<https://www.centavicclothing.com.au/>

If you wish to make an appointment for fitting uniforms you can book online on their website. Otherwise, you are welcome to walk in during trading hours.

Please note you will need to take your School Saving Bonus code to Centavic to claim the \$400.

Your School Saving Bonus code has been sent to you in an email directly from the Department of Education.

You will be able to purchase school uniforms using your School Saving Bonus until Monday 30th June 2025.

After 30th June the remaining balance of your School Saving Bonus will automatically go towards your child's future school activities and/or excursions.



Do you care for, support or come into contact with siblings of children with disability?

Would you like to know more about how you can support better outcomes for siblings – whether within your own family, or in a professional setting?

SibWise online learning program will assist you to better understand and respond to sibling needs and challenges.

This course will provide you with the tools and resources you need to better support siblings.

PARENT REGISTRATION

We know your time is valuable, so we've designed this program in such a way that you can complete it on your schedule. The course should take 2-3 hours total, or can be undertaken in 3 blocks of roughly 45 minutes duration.

The cost of the course is:

- \$30 for parents – you may be able to claim this through the NDIS via the support item 'parent/carers training'.

To book, click on the '*Parent Registration*' link above or go to:

<https://launch.sahealth.sa.gov.au/course/details/sibwise-parents>

What will I learn?

Through a range of scenarios, video content and numerous tips and tools, parents and professionals will learn how to:

- Tackle common challenges for siblings
- Act on wellbeing and mental health needs
- Address family complexities
- Find tools and resources to protect and strengthen children
- Unlock the power of peer connection
- Build resilience through small actions now.

Through the course, you will see the perspectives of both parents and professionals. We believe it is beneficial to see the suggested strategies for each group, to support parents and professionals working together.

“These learning modules were brilliant! As a mum of a child with disability and two other children, I could relate to so many aspects of the stories and scenarios. It has given me knowledge and practical strategies that I can implement straight away to support my children. Well done, Siblings Australia! I have been searching for a resource like this – I am excited that these modules will help other families like ours.” Stacey Touma Sibling parent, CEO - Kindred

The SibWise module uses real-life scenarios to explore the range of emotions, feelings and challenges experienced by siblings of a child with disability. It respectfully shares practical supports, tools and resources that can support siblings and families. A wonderful resource for parents and professionals.

Chris Champion

Director, Positive Partnerships



FOR SALE - Electric Bed with Pressure Care Mattress



Electric Bed with Pressure Care Mattress includes:

- Alrick Ultra Low electric bed.
- Overall dimension 2165x995.
- Pressure Care Mattress size 1960x860.
- Adjustable sides with pads included.

In excellent used condition.

Price \$2500 ono

Contact - Natalie 0411 375 378





Have a nice
weekend!

