



Enrolment Information 2023



*Novo: from the Latin, meaning to make new, renew;
from the beginning or good as new.*

Our Purpose

In our small, flexible, student-led education environments, we provide opportunities which foster the development of capable, confident and self-assured young people who are connected to their community and able to forge a path to a productive future.



Novo Education Space acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work and learn. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders past, present and emerging. We value their continuing cultures and connection to land, water and sea. We are committed to creating safe and welcoming learning centres for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to flourish and grow as future community leaders.



Novo Education Space operates under
the auspices of WEA Illawarra
ABN 14 062 944 950

E-mail: novo@novo.nsw.edu.au

www.novo.nsw.edu.au

Postal address (all campuses)
PO Box 1472 Wollongong NSW 2500

NESA School Number 78007
Aust Govt DET School Number 29085

Novo Education Space Wollongong
50-58 Auburn Street Wollongong NSW
PO Box 1472 Wollongong NSW 2500
Ph: 02 4226 1622

Novo Education Space Nowra
72 Park Road Nowra NSW
(co-located with Shoalhaven PCYC)
Ph: 0411 697 466

Novo Education Space Vincentia
1 St George Avenue Vincentia NSW
(on the premises of Jervis Bay Baptist Church)
Ph: 0412 620 886

Novo Education Space was formerly known as Alesco Illawarra (from 2011 to 2020)

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OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY SAYS

“When I first came here I was a mess; I lacked confidence, I didn’t have many friends, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, I hated school and my mental health was at its absolute worst. I’m a new person now; I enjoy going to school, I have a job, I can handle my mental health, I have a lovely group of friends, I’ve finally got my life back on track again.”



“This school helped me through a difficult time in my life. Not sure where I would be if I hadn’t come here. I would for sure not be graduating Year 12.”

“I as a parent think this is a great organisation in helping kids that have dropped out of school and a great staff that the kids respect. It’s wonderful. Good job!”



“We have witnessed gradual but dramatic improvements in our child’s attitude to the importance of learning and taking responsibility for his various life choices. We know that he feels safe at his school and is willing to openly discuss private matters with school staff and accept advice that is offered to him with appropriate explanation.”

“I love being here and all the teachers are the best teachers I have ever had. I have made real friends and I count them as my brothers. Now I can actually learn and have fun to learn more. I owe it all to them.”

“When you are unhappy there are pets here to make you laugh.”

“My child likes to go to school now. I am so grateful to the staff at this school.”

“I feel that at this school I was given the opportunity to focus on my mental health and I felt supported in doing so. My wellbeing felt like a priority to the teachers and school, which was always an important factor to me ... The SLSOs are fantastic people to have around and encourage students to do their best. They know how to help in a lot of situations and often help to calm students down when everything feels impossible to handle.”



SCHOOL INFORMATION



Novo Education Space is a registered, non-denominational, independent school, specifically designed for the inclusion of young people who would flourish with the right support in an alternative school environment. We have been operating since 2011 (formerly known as Alesco Illawarra).

We can offer you an alternative education option if you are eligible for enrolment in Stage 5 or Stage 6 (years 9 to 12), feel that you are ready and willing to take control of your own learning and your future but need a different kind of environment to succeed.

Maybe you've been **feeling isolated** within your current school or **haven't quite found your fit** at any of the schools you've attended. Perhaps you're **feeling lost** and not getting the **level of support you need**, your **confidence** in some learning areas may have taken a hit and this has meant you've been **reluctant to go to school** or outright refusing. Maybe things have become really **complicated with your relationships** with your friends, other students or staff and you just need a **fresh start** in a smaller environment where **people really care about you**, get to know you as an **individual**, and can formulate a **learning program that has your needs at the centre** and also includes the **right kind of wellbeing support**.

Novo Education Space offers you an entirely new way of completing Years 9-12. This is your fresh start, a chance to renew, the beginning of a new learning journey. We run Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) and Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12) programs that are accredited by the international body, ASDAN, and give students the chance to do real-world learning through a challenge based curriculum. You can work towards your Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate and you can get micro-credentials too!

At Novo we have an equal focus on student wellbeing along with learning growth, allocating each student an experienced Wellbeing Officer. We also have Learning Support Staff available in class to help students identify and work toward personal goals. Novo also employs experienced wellbeing staff (counsellors, mental health nurses social workers and youth workers) to help you negotiate and manage any known or emerging mental health issues and connect you with health and wellbeing services in your community.

**The significant key is EMPOWERMENT through
SELF-DETERMINATION**

In order for you to succeed and be able to make your own decisions about your future, we know that we have to create a learning environment where:

- EVERY STUDENT feels like they belong and has strong connections with others;
- EVERY STUDENT develops the skills they need to meet their personal, social, educational and employment goals;
- EVERY STUDENT has a say in the decisions about what and how they learn and what they want for their future.

Novo Education Space provides an opportunity to learn in an environment that is based on adult learning principles. In return for higher levels of **self-responsibility**, you can enjoy some **greater freedoms**.

Choice, independence, mutual respect and accountability all have a significant role to play.

Novo Education Space provides a safe environment for students that may feel disconnected from mainstream school as a result of different factors. These may include:

- Environmental factors such as the structure of large schools, large class sizes and difficulties gaining the right support from teachers.
- Personal factors such as social anxiety, depression, other mental health issues, complex challenges within the family home, trauma, and victims of bullying.

Some Vital Differences

- Every student attends because they have a desire to make a difference to their future. We do not offer places to students who feel “forced” to be here.
- Every student has the opportunity to make choices about their role as a student.
- Additional support is provided to every student through an individualised learning profile.
- Students and teachers are on a first name basis.
- Smaller class/school size means we get to know you as an individual.
- There are no school uniforms, school bells or school assemblies.
- We work with you and your support people in preparing a plan for your transition to the next step in your education, training or employment journey.



COURSES ON OFFER

Stage 5 Program

Our Stage 5 Program is a one to two year program (depending on whether you join us in Year 9 or Year 10).

The program allows you to have real world learning experiences and work towards the International ASDAN Bronze Certificate and Short Course accreditation. Students study the mandatory Stage 5 NESA subjects and complete some course outcomes, but these studies do not contribute to the Record of School Achievement (RoSA). The objective of our Program is to prepare you to take your next step, whether that is TAFE, work or a return to mainstream, equipped with the portfolio of work you have created while doing the Architect Program.



To ensure your successful engagement and completion of the Architect Program, staff will work with you to develop an individual learning profile. This profile will help us identify your personal learning style, needs and goals. Then, in consultation with you, we will develop strategies to support you to complete school work and design any special requirements and support you need to complete your learning activities, focussing on your strengths.

Throughout the year, we will regularly review with you your personal education, training or employment goals and discuss your pathway to get there. When you leave us, you will have a clear plan for your next steps, depending on your stated goals.

If one of your goals is to continue with school education you can do that with us in our Stage 6 Program. If your goal is to complete your HSC we will support your transition to another local high school or TAFE to achieve this.

If you're looking to get into the workforce, we will help you access a range of accredited vocational training and other non-accredited courses as part of your education plan.

Stage 6 Program

Novo Education Space offers the Stage 6 Program Years 11 and 12 which includes International ASDAN Bronze, Silver and Gold awards and Short Course Certificates. We also work with students to get school based traineeships/apprenticeships, work experience, and take select courses at TAFE.

Please contact us for more information about our Stage 6 program and to determine whether Novo Education Space is the right place for you to work towards your Year 11 and 12 completion.



CURRICULUM

At Novo Education Space we have the ability to tailor your learning program to your capabilities. We are registered to offer either general curriculum subjects, Life Skills courses or a combination of both, depending on your needs. We are of course also registered to deliver the International ASDAN awards through our Architect and Blueprint Programs.

In **Stage 5** we offer the NESA mandatory subjects of

English
Mathematics
Science
Geography
History
PDHPE

We also offer some creative arts courses in Stage 5.

Please contact Novo Education Space to discuss your **Stage 6** course options as these differ at each campus.

UNIVERSITY PATHWAY

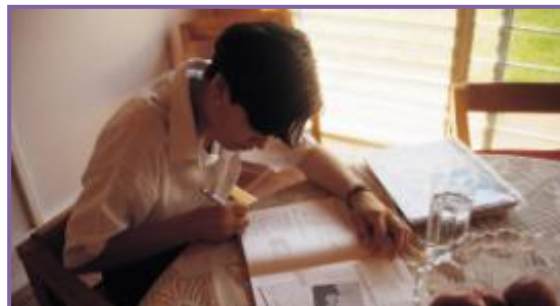
Novo Education Space is able to support access to bridging programs in partnership with the University of Wollongong, or other pathways programs for those students with aspirations to gain a University Degree. Students are not required to have completed the HSC nor have attained an ATAR to access these pathways programs. If university is your goal, we'll work with you to plan your steps to achieve your goal.



HOURS OF OPERATION

School hours for students at Wollongong, Nowra and Vincentia are from 9.30am to 2.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 12.30pm on Friday. Campus student contact hours can have some additional flexibility to cater for programs such as work experience or other student needs.

School hours and timetable are confirmed at the start of each school year and term. The Campus Coordinator or campus teacher will discuss attendance expectations with each student on acceptance of enrolment.



SCHOOL FEES

Novo Education Space does not charge fees for enrolment and tuition in subjects offered directly by the school. Some special school activities or enrolment in courses that are delivered by external providers (eg, TAFE, distance education) may attract fees. Information about any such fees will be provided prior to a student undertaking any of these options. Most school excursions and other school organised activities are provided at no cost to students as we do not want cost to present any barrier to full participation in the life of the school and learning opportunities provided.



TERM DATES

Novo Education Space terms generally correspond to NSW public school term dates. There are some variations, including start and end of the school year, orientation week, assessment dates and graduation etc. All school term dates will be confirmed if you are successful in gaining a place and your enrolment is finalised.

You will be notified of pupil free days, staff development days or school excursions throughout the year as they arise. Novo Education Space always provides written information when the regular school hours are disrupted.



CAMPUS INFORMATION

Novo Education Space Wollongong

(Main Administration)

Shared space with WEA Illawarra Community College

50-58 Auburn Street

Wollongong NSW 2500

Ph: 02 4226 1622

E-mail: novo@novo.nsw.edu.au

www.novo.nsw.edu.au



Novo Education Space Nowra

Co-located with Shoalhaven PCYC

72 Park Road Nowra

Ph: 0401 812 256

Novo Education Space Vincentia

On the grounds of Jervis Bay Baptist Church

1 St George Avenue Vincentia

Ph: 0431 185 804

School Leadership Team

Principal

Leader of Teaching and Learning

Leader of Health and Wellbeing

Leader of Operations

Wellbeing Manager

Campus Coordinator Nowra

Campus Coordinator Vincentia

Campus Coordinator Wollongong

David Fuller

Kim Brady

Monique Piper

Louisa Raft

Carolyn Lo Pinto

Clea Westenberg

Bec Kate

Oliver Naylor

Each campus has a range of teaching, learning support and wellbeing staff to meet student education and wellbeing needs



**Success relies on an individual's
desire to make it happen**

HOW TO APPLY

All enrolments are taken via an *Application for Enrolment* form and an interview process. Contact Novo Education Space if you would like an Application for Enrolment Form to be sent to you or visit www.novo.nsw.edu.au .

After we receive your application form along with the requested documents, you will join the list of students waiting for intake. All applicants are offered an opportunity to attend an interview, but please be aware that an interview is not a guarantee of enrolment.

Students will not be enrolled at Novo Education Space without attending an interview. You are welcome to bring a parent/carer or other support person with you to the interview, however it is you we are most interested in talking with.

We will ask questions about your previous schooling and why you want to attend Novo Education Space. We will ask about any relevant medical history and behavioural and learning challenges. We may also ask about your support networks or peer networks.

You will have the best chance of gaining a position in the school if you participate in the interview with:

- an openness and willingness to embrace change
- some ideas about your goals and plans for the future.

Priority is given to applicants who can demonstrate they are able to take responsibility for themselves and their learning and participate respectfully in our learning environments, which are more closely aligned with adult education principles. All our campuses are co-located with other community organisations whose property, policies, operations and community participants must be respected at all times.

As we are a Special Assistance School, we will also assess a student's needs in the following areas:

Literacy, numeracy, language and communication skills
Mental health diagnosis or social-emotional challenges
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or other cultural and linguistic background
Learning or behavioural difficulties
Financial or social disadvantage or isolation
Intellectual or physical disability

Places are limited and we will give priority to those students who have evidence of commitment to learning, are exercising their own choice to enrol with us and where we

can work effectively together with the student, their parents/caregivers and other community supporters to plan for and meet learning and social-emotional needs.

Please note, it is essential for you to submit evidence of your age, previous studies at school, immunisation records, plus any documents you have which tell us more about any of the needs you have in the areas mentioned above.

If you do not submit this information, we may not be able to assess your eligibility and suitability for enrolment at Novo Education Space.

Enrolment Enquiries

Phone 4226 1622 or email admin@novo.nsw.edu.au

**It's not about your history ...
it's about how much you want a future!**

What are you waiting for?



Novo Education Space. A fresh start. A chance to fly.

You can't go back and change
the beginning, but you can
start where you are and change
the ending