

Inclusion and Access Guide

The Royal Botanic Gardens Learning team aims to provide access and inclusion for all children. We provide teachers with specialist skills in ESL, Special Education and Learning Difficulties. RBG teachers can modify any of our programs for students with additional needs, including English language needs.

	We provide
For children who speak English as a Second Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning environments that are rich and provide experiences that are hands-on, sensory and physical. • Learning experiences that are highly social and provide rich opportunities for listening, speaking and interacting with students, teachers and parents. • The Aboriginal Resource Trail provides a rich introduction to Indigenous culture.
For children who use wheelchairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to get out of a chair and lie or sit in an alternative position to reach elements such as sand, water, grass, flowers and other natural elements that can be manipulated by hands or feet. • Places that a person using a wheelchair can be wheeled through or under to stimulate the senses e.g. Plant tunnels or overhanging plants. • Activities that provide interaction at wheelchair level (front on) e.g. Potting a plant, smelling and touching aromatic plants. • Raised garden beds in the <i>How to Garden</i> that allow easy access, sensory immersion and exploration. • Wide paths with varying degrees of slopes in the larger RBG and bushland. Trig track is steeper with a 1:11m grade on a granitic sand base and the Serpentine Path in the Australian Garden is also a bit steep. Some student activity areas do not have sealed path access and can be difficult to get to. There are steps between the Arid Garden and the Weird and Wonderful Garden however both areas can be accessed by graded pathways (see maps) http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/visit-cranbourne/plan-your-visit/map-of-the-gardens
For children with limited arm and hand function, frail children or with limited muscle control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who are frail or have limited muscle control are more vulnerable to being knocked down by others. They may need more support and time to use certain activities, and spaces to relax or gain their composure. For these children, a very busy play space may be daunting. • RBG Facilitators are aware that limited ability to move freely often affects independence, access and participation and can limit which parts of the play space a child can use, and the speed at which they can move around and interact with a group. RBG programs can be modified to meet the individual requirements of the group.

<p>For children with sensory impairments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For children with visual impairments the RBGC provides • Garden edges, patterns and textures define pathways. Narrow paths meander through areas of taller plants, invite exploration and provide a route to guide movement. • Wide, clearly defined pathways through the RBG. • For children who are deaf or hearing impaired. • Communication and social engagement may be more challenging. RBG Facilitators consider the seating or positioning of a child in the group to maximize listening and watching and avoid sun glare. Facilitators can modify the level of English used in a program if they are working with an Auslan Interpreter. • Some children are very sensitive to touch or have difficulty integrating sensory information. Others may be particularly sensitive to light, temperature and other environmental conditions. RBG Facilitators will discuss with the classroom teacher the specific needs of the children in the group and adapt the program accordingly.
<p>For children with a range of intellectual and cognitive abilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBG Facilitators will discuss with the classroom teacher the specific learning difficulties, cognitive and communication needs of the students and adapt the program accordingly. • Some kinds of intellectual or cognitive impairments affect a child's ability to perceive a challenging situation or potential hazard in a play space. The Australian Garden is a fenced space which also provides 'retreat spaces' where a frustrated child can have 'time out' with dignity.
<p>For parents and carers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers are welcomed and are actively included in our educational programs. • Adults are encouraged to be supporters in learning and play, as well as caring for children's personal needs. • We provide seating for adults to relax and / or care for individual needs in the Australian Garden and the bushland.
<p>Arriving by bus</p>	<p>Disability parking is close to the entry point for the Australian Garden, with a drop-off zone big enough for a small bus. Coach parking is provided and clearly marked and is again adjacent to the Australian Garden entry point and the Entry Orientation Shelter</p>
<p>Toilets</p>	<p>A fully accessible toilet with hoist is situated at the Visitors Centre, very close to the meeting area, and a number of disability toilets are also available in other parts of the Royal Botanic Gardens during the program (see Maps).</p>

RBG services

- The Visitors Centre can provide the following information;
- The RBG Cranbourne Accessibility Action Plan <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/visit-cranbourne/plan-your-visit/accessibility>
- Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne Map, which includes signage and access paths
- The Garden Explorer is an electric motorized people mover which circulates around the Australian Garden continuously and can seat 23 people. There is a fee for this service.
- Electric Mobility Scooters are available for hire on site.
- Free use of wheelchair (with \$50 deposit)
- Carers Cards are accepted for Visitor Programs