



DeSteel Cafe is now a place for people with dementia to meet with others.

Together for tea

Cafe opens its doors to people with dementia

People with dementia, now have their own local café to catch up with others in similar situations to share support and make new friends along the way.

Every second Thursday of the month, DeSteel Café at the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Community Recreation Centre, holds a Dementia support day for people living with the disease and their carers.

Staff from Sydney Local

Health District (SLHD), Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Uniting Ageing Care and Marrickville Council provide advice and support services on the day.

SLHD Aged Care and Rehabilitation specialist for the Marrickville area, Anne Tunks, said the day isn't just a support network for people with dementia, it's a multicultural initiative.

"For a lot of the people that come to the café, English is a

second language. This can be another barrier to meeting new people and the café experience aims to bring a range of cultures together," Ms Tunks said.

"The café is a safe and welcoming place for people with dementia and their relatives to talk and share stories over morning tea."

The dementia support day at DeSteel Café runs every second Thursday of the month from 10.30am until 12noon.

Cool classrooms

Marrickville trials new way to cool classrooms in summer

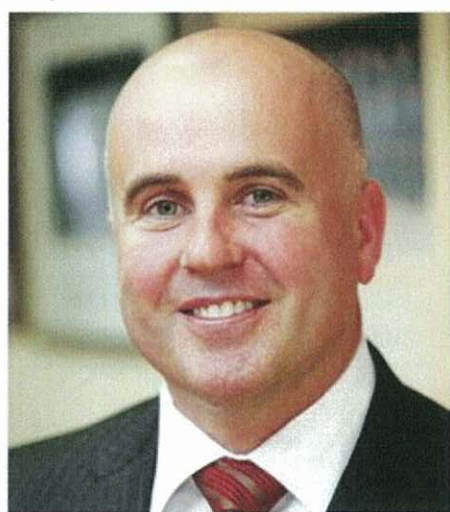
Marrickville High School will be one of 11 schools across the state to pilot the Thermal Comfort Framework, trialing new ways of cooling classrooms in summer and warming them in winter.

The pilot hopes to reduce electricity consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions and provide more comfortable learning environments at schools.

NSW Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, announced the trial earlier this week and said while some schools need air-conditioning, temperature control could be achieved using better insulation, building repairs, sunscreens or landscaping for others.

"We know that from examples... that schools can successfully cool halls and classrooms in summer and heat them in winter by installing insulation and awnings, repairing windows and planting trees," Mr Piccoli said.

"Instead of imposing an even greater burden on school finances in the form of a carbon tax, by encouraging energy efficiency schools may save money on their power bills.



NSW Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli.

"The Thermal Comfort Framework will trial a variety of passive design solutions in the range of school building types for climate zones across the state."

Participating schools will undergo an audit of their electricity and water

consumption based on a concept developed by the Office of Environment and Heritage.

All schools will have access to a real-time monitoring system showing just how much electricity is being used. The trial will begin next week.

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