



SUPPORTIVE PERSONS GUIDE

Choosing the right Montessori environment for the person you are caring for or supporting is important. Each care community is either privately owned or run by a non-profit organisation.

Whilst the Australian government does have an aged care accreditation process it does not yet have a national programme for accrediting care communities that promote Montessori environments ensuring quality standards. If however the care community is part of the Montessori Ageing Support Services Quality Assurance Programme it indicates a commitment to providing high quality Montessori programmes, environments and experiences for residents and clients.

The Montessori Ageing Support Services Quality Assurance Programme (MASSQAP) is not an accreditation process but rather a supportive and positive means of continuous improvement by which care communities strive to ensure quality Montessori environments, outcomes and best practice.

A signed Charter should be displayed by these care communities which says the organisation believes:

- That all elders have the right to an environment that is carefully prepared so that it meets and nurtures the needs of each person.
- That each person has the potential to be an active participant in their care community.
- Montessori environments are aligned with individual needs, interests and strengths for optimal social, emotional and cognitive support and activities.
- Opportunity for choice, independence and self-initiated activity are elements of the prepared environment.
- Memory supports are used routinely to support cognitive deficits and maintain orientation to time, place and person.
- The involvement of elders in roles, routines and activities enriches the living environment, sense of belonging, self-esteem and feelings of worth.

As a result of these beliefs, the care community strives to implement the Montessori Ageing Support Quality Standards. For further information and a list of participating care communities, please visit the website www.massa.org.au

