



27 MAY, 2024

Kids to cross off skill

Daily Telegraph, Sydney

Kids to cross off skill

Eilidh Sproul-Mellis

School pick-up traffic drives many parents mad, but few schools need a working set of traffic lights and crossing plonked in their grounds.

Karonga School at Epping is different. Its \$100,000 crossing isn't designed to prevent road rage, but to give students with intellectual disabilities the chance to practise road safety. Principal Ruth Rogers said the crossing added to a "suite" of specialised areas including a gym and a mini Woolworths supermarket at the school.

"We're already seeing it pay dividends," she said.

Maddison Crawford, 5, has autism and global developmental delay, but attending Karonga has had a "phenomenal impact", mum Gemma Crawford said.

"I used to dread taking Maddi just for a walk ... but now she stops and waits for the little red man to go green," she said. "This could save so many kids' lives."

A grant from the Epping Club covered half the cost of the crossing.



Jim Stafford and his granddaughter, Maddison, 5, use the new crossing at Epping's Karonga School. Picture: Justin Lloyd