

# FROM CONVENIENCE TO CONSCIOUSNESS

MARY MACKILLOP PLACE, NORTH SYDNEY



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OUT OF THE  
*Ordinary*



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Recognising the impact human behaviour and convenience can have on waste habits, the team at [Mary MacKillop Place](#) reflected on how the physical environment can either encourage or discourage stewardship. It was observed that when general waste bins are widely available, people are more likely to dispose of items without considering recycling or sustainability.

## THE INITIATIVE

Mary MacKillop Place redesigned waste accessibility within its shared spaces. General rubbish bins were reduced to one central location, while blue recycling bins were made more visible and accessible throughout offices and communal areas. This subtle environmental design encouraged recycling behaviours, fostering a culture of mindful stewardship rather than convenience-driven disposal.

## THE RESULT

The initiative reshaped workplace and visitor habits, reducing the number of general waste bins across the site from 15 to five. The number of recycling bins increased from **10 to 25**. Since implementation, recycling rates have increased by **40-50%**, helping foster an *ecological culture*.

## THE GOAL

Continue to foster a culture of ecological stewardship at Mary MacKillop Place, embedding sustainable practices into everyday operations, while contributing to the broader vision of [Laudato Si'](#).

## REFLECTION

The initiative highlighted the importance of recognising the relationship between human behaviour, the environment and organisational responsibility. It reinforced that stewardship is not only expressed through large environmental projects, but also through intentional everyday practices. We were reminded that care for creation is ultimately care for one another.