Martha takes role of health advocate

STUDENT OFF TO HARVARD

MARThA J. McKinley will advocate for mental health and equal rights in her new role with the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

The 16-year-old, who attends St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School, will be part of an international movement exploring the ethical and moral issues facing young people on the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) of the Making Caring Common (MCC) project.

The project is part of Harvard University’s initiative to help educators, parents and communities raise children who are caring, responsible to their communities and committed to justice.

Martha will undergo leadership training and career-development skills and will meet regularly with the other YAB members to share ideas over the next 12 months.

She said she was looking forward to being able to help others. “I am a huge advocate for mental health and equal rights,” the Year 11 student said.

“I am inspired by many different people who have helped me towards my goal of making a difference.”

Dean of Students Erica Herron said the project would give Martha the opportunity to extend the reach of her message about the challenges she faces in dealing with dyslexia, dysgraphia and ADHD.

“We believe she will be a strong advocate for other students who are searching for their pathways,” Ms Herron said.

“She has the capacity to make a difference.

“It is valuable to recognise that success at school is not just about what is learned in the confines of the classroom.”