

Together for Humanity Project QLD 2008

Project Purpose

- i. We will contribute to the development of empathy toward and appreciation of all people.
 - ii. We will contribute to the development of the ability of individuals to make a difference through action together based on shared values.
 - iii. To lay the foundation for long term activity that promotes and educate children in empathy, appreciation and cooperation between people of diverse beliefs and backgrounds.
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Project Overview

The **Together for Humanity (QLD)** project is a 12 month project that will bring broad Australia into contact with representatives of the various faiths and belief systems through a schools program that highlights common Australian values of mutual respect, a fair go and a sense of belonging for everyone.

This project builds on the activities and resources of the **Australians Together in Values** Partnership and “Goodness & Kindness” projects which engaged schools and education communities, including Indigenous Australians, in interactive programs involving interfaith and Indigenous workshop facilitators.

The Activity

The 2008 project will run offer three options to schools

A. An integrated learning program through school students interacting with each other, appreciating their shared values and taking action on these together. (A & B offered to Primary and Secondary schools)

B. Educational workshops conducted by role models from diverse backgrounds, with teachers’ preparation and follow up notes and activity.

C. A Unit of teaching and learning materials to be used over a school term which links to the Syllabus objectives as well as supporting the educational aims of appreciation of diversity and encouraging action on values. (Available for upper primary only)

Details

- ‘Service together’- partnered schools program. Students from schools with different demographic compositions to each other visit each others school. They discuss common approaches to values and participate in service projects that reflect and communicate about their experience. The nature of the service project would be determined by the schools, they could be a joint clothes drive, a joint visit to a seniors home for example.
- Two one hour workshops conducted by diverse facilitators.
- Recruitment and training of suitable people to facilitate parts of this educational program.

- Further development and distribution of educational materials to be done over a school term that had been developed in 2007 in consultation with the NSW Department of Education and Training. It consists of a range of learning activities which support the aims mentioned above.
 - Development of the Together for Humanity website to serve as a supporting resource and meeting point to support this activity.
 - Community relationship building and engagement for project sustainability.
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Expected outcomes

1. Participants will express views about people from diverse background after their participation that are different to the views they held prior to the experience. (In particular students will be aware of the shared deep commitments to positive values and service.)
 2. Students will achieve a range of curriculum outcomes as they progress toward aforementioned objective (in particular personal development relating to values).
 3. Formal and informal arrangements involving government and Queensland based religious community institutions are established which are ready to deliver and expand activities that serve these aims in 2009 and beyond.
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Nature of commitment required of participants

A. Commitment from Together for Humanity & Partners, Department of Immigration and Citizenship & Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Communities, and the Education sector.

1. Programs for workshops and schools visiting each other, guidance and educational support materials.
2. Recruitment, screening, training and provision of diverse facilitators.
3. Professional development and support for school principals and teachers, including support in finding ideas to integrate service together and communication with the regular teaching program.
4. Website discussion board, www.togetherforhumanity.org.au to be moderated by TFH supervised community volunteers or staff to ensure appropriateness of posts.
5. Funding assistance for schools in full or in part for transport between schools.

B. School participating in “Service Together”

- 1) Teachers participating in a joint planning and professional development day.
- 2) A teaching program/plan over at least 1 school term that includes elements of community service and a plan for how and how often the students will communicate.
- 3) Visiting and hosting a school to be partnered with.
- 4) Ensuring that students from the partnered schools communicate on four occasions apart from the two reciprocal school visits. (This could include

posting related work/digital photos to the Together for Humanity or the school website)

- 5) Each student takes some action in relation to the program.
- 6) Students write reflections at the end of the process.
- 7) Teachers evaluate the process and give their feedback on what was effective/not effective and how it might be approved.
- 8) Provide information to parents about the activity and suggestions, requests for parental support.

C. Schools Hosting Together for Humanity Workshops

1. Teachers participate in a discussion about the program with Education officer of Together for Humanity, or with schools based leadership who have been in-serviced or
2. Prepare students for visit, using material provided or own ideas.
3. Items 5-8 of section B.

D. Queensland based organisations, churches and education sector.

Assistance in accordance with capacity to help in any of the following categories as they see fit

1. Guidance about and approvals of strategy, educational materials, processes, policies and work-plan.
2. Selection of schools to be offered first opportunity to participate in the program.
3. Information distribution to other schools to be able to request the program, which will be considered after priority schools have been accommodated.
4. Identification of people who can help in either paid or voluntary capacity, including evaluation, Education/project officer, presentations,
5. Website development and management.
6. Development of Education materials.
7. Marketing and administration.
8. Funding and establishment of structure for long term.

Timeline

Milestone	Completed by
1. Project Committee established, first meeting held.	31 January 2008
2. QLD Priority Schools identified and offered program.	15 February
3. QLD Education officer/project co-ordinator appointed	29 February 2008
4. Information circulated to other schools.	15 March 2008
5. QLD presenters identified and trained	21 March 2008
6. Unit of Work (from NSW) reviewed- QLD perspective	31 March 2008
7. Evaluation strategy finalised, implementation begins	31 March 2008
8. QLD schools program begin to occur regularly	April 2008
9. QLD Service together- partnered schools and half of schools hosting workshops identified and confirmed	4 April 2008

10. Harmony Day NSW, VIC and QLD	15 April 2008#
11. Sustainability strategy finalised, implementation begins.	15 May 2008
12. Balance of Schools participating in 2008 confirmed.	15 June 2008
13. Interim Evaluation report received.	31 August 2008
14. QLD Sister Schools activities completed	19 September 2008
15. Teaching Materials in schools – feedback received	26 September 2008
16. Sustainability strategy progressed to point that commitment is made to offer a service in 2009	15 October 2008
17. Teaching material reviewed and draft approved by partners	7 November 2008
18. Final Evaluation report	15 November 2008
19. QLD workshops completed	19 December 2008
20. Updated teaching material approved by partners and available via website	19 December 2008
21. Community relationship building/ Sustainability activities completed	19 December 2008
22. Final Project Committee meeting	19 December 2008
23. Activities completed.	20 December 2008