



ACU AND DE PAUL UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Community Engagement and Service Learning

Just Visiting?

**Take off your shoes, lest you tread on
someone's dreams**

Megan Bourke Caritas Australia

With thanks to

***Dr Meg Noack Lutheran Education July
2019***



**Caritas
AUSTRALIA**

**End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity**

WHO WE ARE: A SNAPSHOT

- International aid and development organization of the Catholic Church in Australia.
- Work through local partnerships in over 21 countries
- Self-determination





A just and fair world,
a world in balance,
at peace and free of poverty;

A world, which the Church in Australia helps build,
Where all human beings can live in dignity and
communities are architects of their own
development.

WHAT WE DO....



Our work can be summarised as:

✦ **Humanitarian aid**

✦ **Long term development**

✦ **Advocacy and education**

within Australia and with our
International Partners

LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships with local organisations

- health and hygiene
- education
- Indigenous rights
- disaster risk reduction
- climate justice
- disability
- food security and agriculture
- water and sanitation
- peace building
- advocacy and human rights



Credit: Caritas Switzerland



Our approach and understanding of development shapes our immersion program.

IN YOUR EXPERIENCES...

From what perspective do your students engage in service learning/immersion travel?

- **Discern**

LISTEN, LEARN, DISCERN, AFFIRM

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS ~

**Let's learn together with open minds and
generous hearts.**



Listen to school Practitioner Voices who grapple with

- Amount of Fundraising
- Balance of Service and Learning
- Local and International Service-Learning focus
 - A pedagogy?
 - A (co-curricular) program / event?
 - An (In-class Curriculum) Unit?
 - Worship / religiously positioned?
 - Other?

Balance-Scale thinking

- Focused on **Student** or **Recipient**?
- Focused on **Service** or **Learning**?
- Focused on **Local** or **Overseas**?
- Focused on **Curricular** or **Co-Curricular**
- Focused on **Charity** or **Justice**?

Academic Research (4 'big' themes)

- **Pedagogy Matters** (how)
- **Partnerships Matter** (with whom and how)
- **Student Engagement Matter** (attitudinal)
- **Values and Concepts Matter** (why)

Values and Concepts Matter (why)

- A Justice-Oriented Approach honours human dignity, challenges learner perspectives and builds reciprocity
- Conceptual and ethical thinking deepen learning connections.

(Tinkler, Tinkler, Gerstl-Pepin and Mugisha, 2014; Tinkler and Tinkler, 2013; (Price, 2008; Lavery, Cain and Hampton, 2014; Murdoch, 2015) 



Inquiry, knowing and learning (that is) shaped by the question, “How does this serve the needs of the world?” ... will be appreciatively different from knowing not accompanied by such a question...

[Christenson, 2004]

OUR PURPOSE - The Why

Simon Sinek – The Golden Circle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMOlfsR7SMQ>



PURPOSE and VOCATION are connected

**A vocational mindset
requires revolutionary
thinking about the purpose
and meaning of education...**

*“Measurement is not the same as meaning.
Psychological constructs are not true identity. Being
normal’ is not what it means to have Life to the full.
Science and statistics do not tell us about Soul”*

McCutcheon, G (2008)

THEREFORE...

Vocational Thinking and **our Beliefs** shape how we explain Service-Learning

- **It builds an 'other', neighbourly-focused outlook**
- **It is a way of thinking and being... We are growing a 'heart-set'**

AND...

It **MUST** involve learning

- learning **to listen**,
- learning to **better understand**,
- learning to **cross boundaries**,
- learning how **to be neighbourly**,
- learning how **to be generous**

(preparation and reflection is vital)

"It is good that our hands should help the flight of the poor, but may we never assume to take the place of their wings"

Dom Helder Camara



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

Across all of its International aid and development work, including Immersive experiences, Caritas Australia promotes engagement in the faith-call

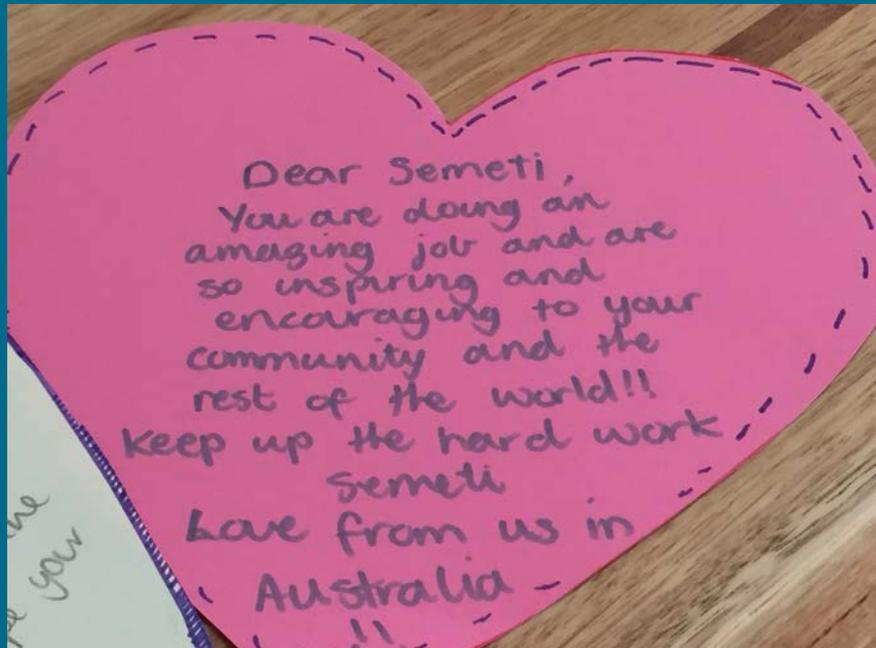
"From Charity to Justice to Advocacy"

LISTEN to the student voice

Student Engagement Matters (attitudinal)

- Civic responsibility is emphasized
- Student voice and leadership encouraged

(Battistoni, 2006; Price, 2008; NYLC, date unknown)



"We don't see
things as they
are, we see them
as we are"

Anais Nin



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What does a school culture of Service Learning look like?

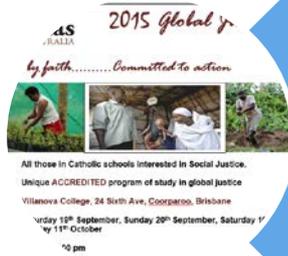
Many Catholic Secondary schools undertake SL projects at various scales – Local – National Global

Important Lessons exhibited are:

- Leadership & learning
- Networking [early adopters]
- Document a framework.
- Champions require induction

Culture-building includes everyone.

IMMERSION PROGRAM...



Formation Course Modules



In country experience



Community Engagement

IMMERSION COURSE MODULES

- Guest speakers, interactive workshops
- Group and Individual tasks
- Readings
- Opportunities to *reflect, learn, and discuss*



Seed storage bag filled with Kharif rice seen in Kashmore, Sindh

Prepared?

Mutually beneficial?

Invited? Imposing?

Long or short term impact?

JUST VISITING?

Observing? Learning?
Changing? Why?

Are your visits 'just'?

FEATURES OF THE RESOURCE

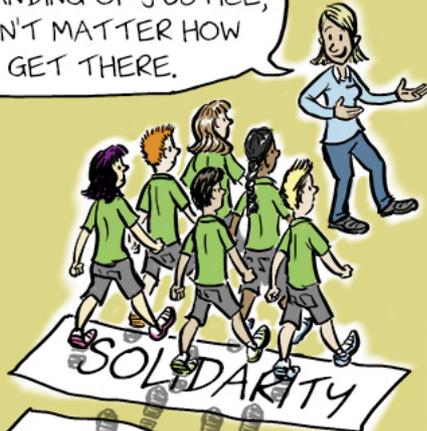
- Discusses: Defines service learning/partnership, Motivations, Risks, Preparation, debriefing
- Film interview clips
- Reflective practice approach
- CST framework
- Reflection questions and tools
- Editorial cartoons
- Comments from teachers

- Online/printable PDF



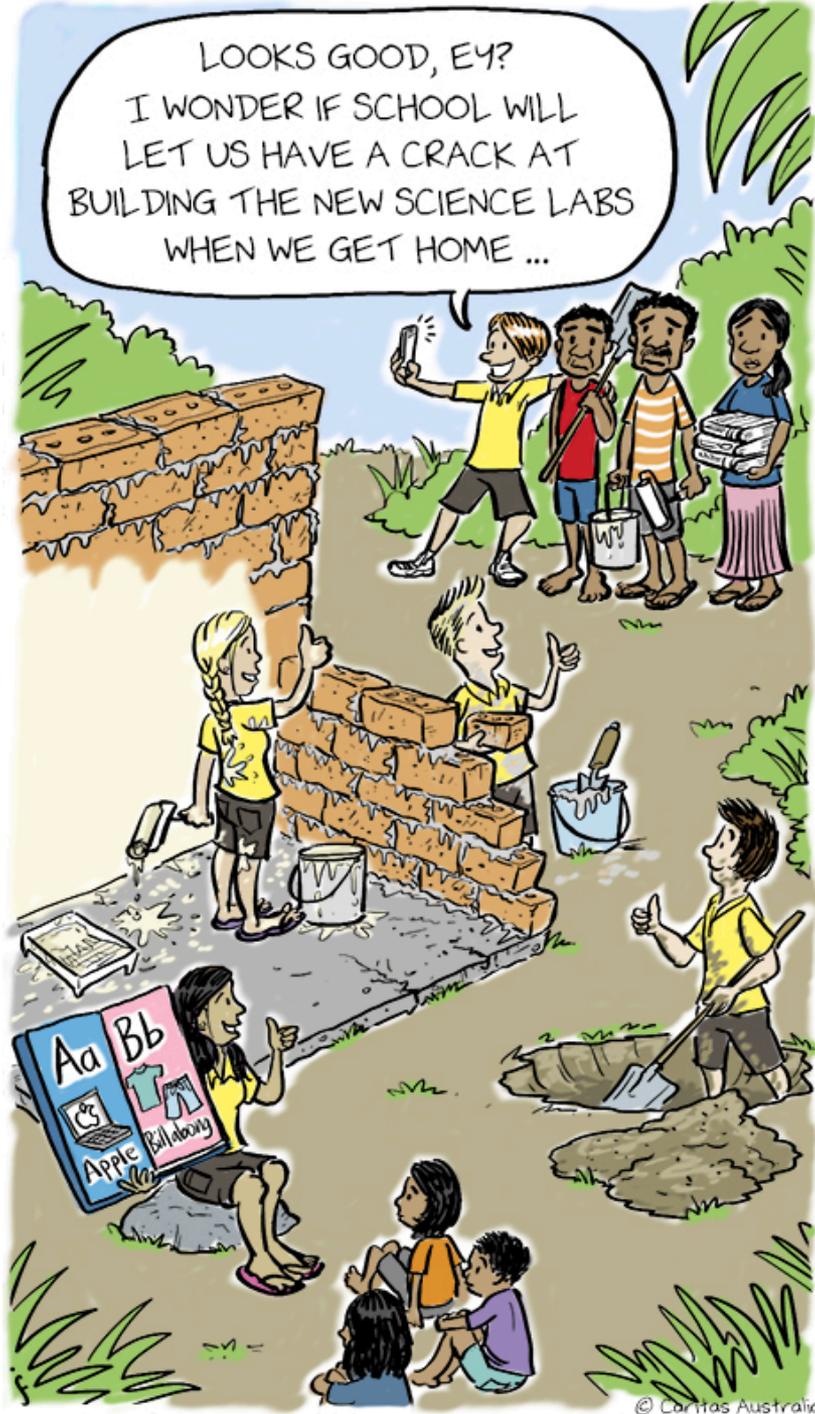
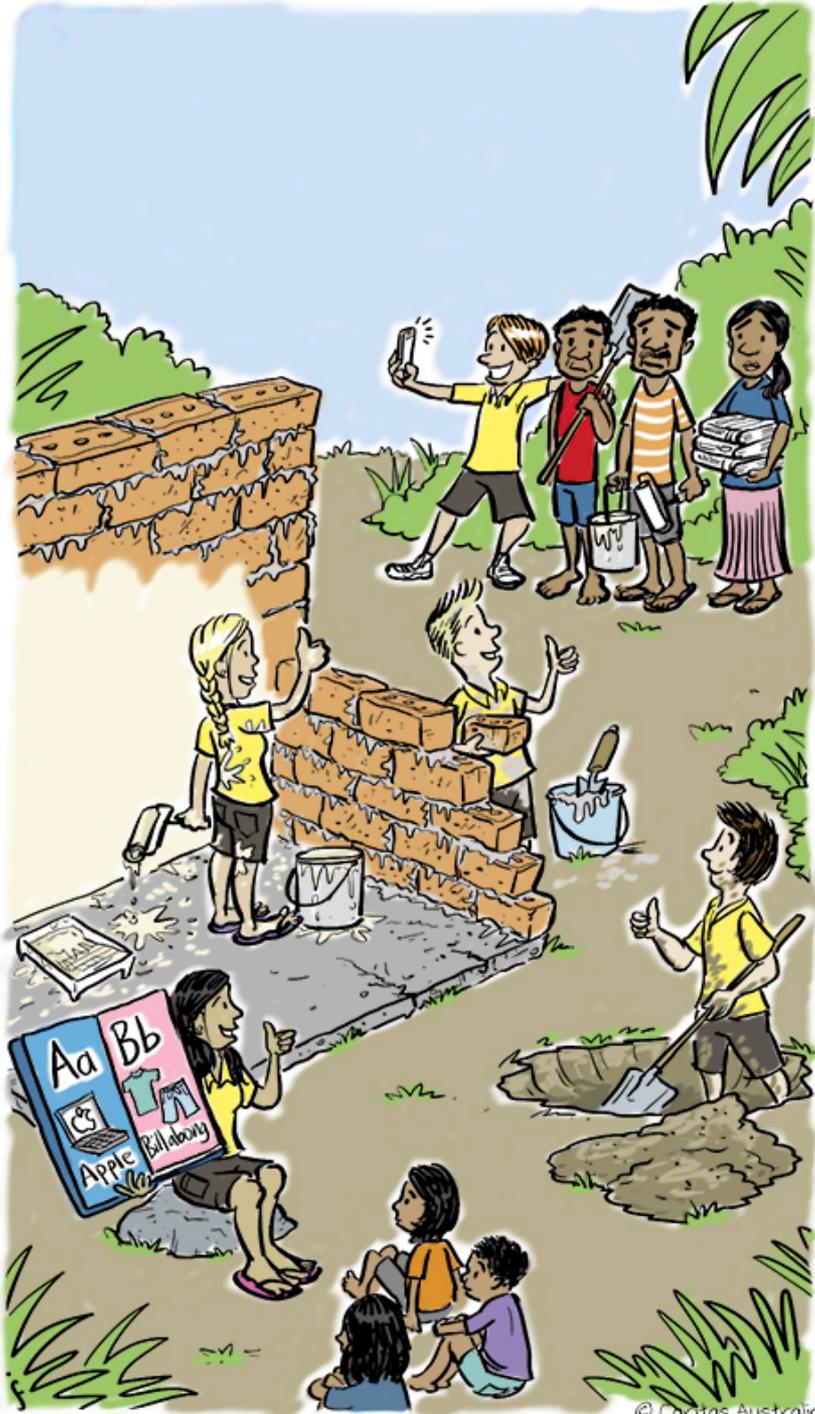
Youtube

C'MON KIDS!
AS LONG AS YOU GET TO AN
UNDERSTANDING OF JUSTICE,
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW
WE GET THERE.



PURPOSE

- Nuance
- Challenge thinking
- Discern
- Grapple with challenging ideas



LOOKS GOOD, EY?
I WONDER IF SCHOOL WILL
LET US HAVE A CRACK AT
BUILDING THE NEW SCIENCE LABS
WHEN WE GET HOME ...

CHALLENGE THINKING

THIS IDEA

- I have to 'do something'
- Charity is giving
- Our benevolence is good enough
- I am transforming 'someone, something, somewhere'

"Some people are less fortunate than me. I can give money to help them. I want to give food to the poor."

TO THIS IDEA:

- Learning is action.
- Charity is relationships
- Our faith calls us to high standards of practise
- I am being transformed

"I live in a world where there are man-made unjust structures. I am part of the change. I don't just want to give food to the poor, I want to know why the poor don't have food, and change that"



LEARN from your partners: LEARNING TOGETHER WITH OPEN MINDS AND GENEROUS HEARTS



Caritas Australia in Timor Leste receives up to 5 group of visitors (less than 15 students each group) from different college every year (e.g. Assumption College Kilmore, Shepparton Students, Notre Dome Students etc.)

Most of the groups only visited the Caritas Office half day for mutual sharing and discussing with CA staff regarding Caritas programs in Timor Leste and the visitors activities.

In 2014 Immersion group (Notre Dome Fremantle) and then in 2016 The Djilpin Arts group visited CA program activities in Manufahi and Baucau during 10 days. There were some main activities during the visit such as discussing & sharing experience with local partners and the community regarding the project outcomes and challenges, visited project sites and engaged in groups activities (e.g. prepare seedlings, weaving etc.), and met with local leaders specifically the traditional elders shared on Timor history and culture.

Preparation/Logistics for us visitors are arriving

- Notice from the Caritas HQ in Sydney to country office

- **Consultation process:**



The most important aspect is to consult with and involve local partners and target group (including local leaders).

- ✓ They know better the situation and the group. Let the partner and target group to discuss and decide which group to visit, time etc.
- ✓ Security issues
- ✓ Avoid misunderstanding – inform objectives of the visit

- **Logistic process**

Form team per municipality

Prepare budget & agenda

Booking restaurant & hotels

Coordinate with OPS on vehicle and first aid kit

Debriefing pre departure (safety & security, culture norms etc.)

Notes: 3 months preparation (challenge: distance/rural area, no internet access, team have to come to municipality to ensure preparation)



Cultural Welcoming Process

“Kuta/matak malirin”

Lia Na'in/Traditional Elder will put a sign on your head which means the spirit of the ancestor will guide & protect you wherever you go in Timor island.

“Tais”

Giving tais means you are now tied as a part of our Timorese family.

“Bidu hena mutin”

Traditional dance “bidu hena mutin” will accompany you into the place which means we receive you in our home country with an clean (open) heart.



What you can do and cannot do?

- It is good to visit TL and its partners and community in July – October (dry season) as most of our program in remote area facing challenge with the road during wet season. Partners and target communities will also have available time as the project activities is less from July to October. ** Check the weather and check our availability !!
- When you are in the community many people (adults, young men and women, children) will looking at you with smile even they really want to shake hand and take pictures with you. Please don't feel uncomfortable or furious but put smile on your face. This because of hospitality is important for Timorese people. We want to be your friend and in the rural area we rarely met with foreigners which we call “malae”/the white skin.
- ** We like to have visitors !





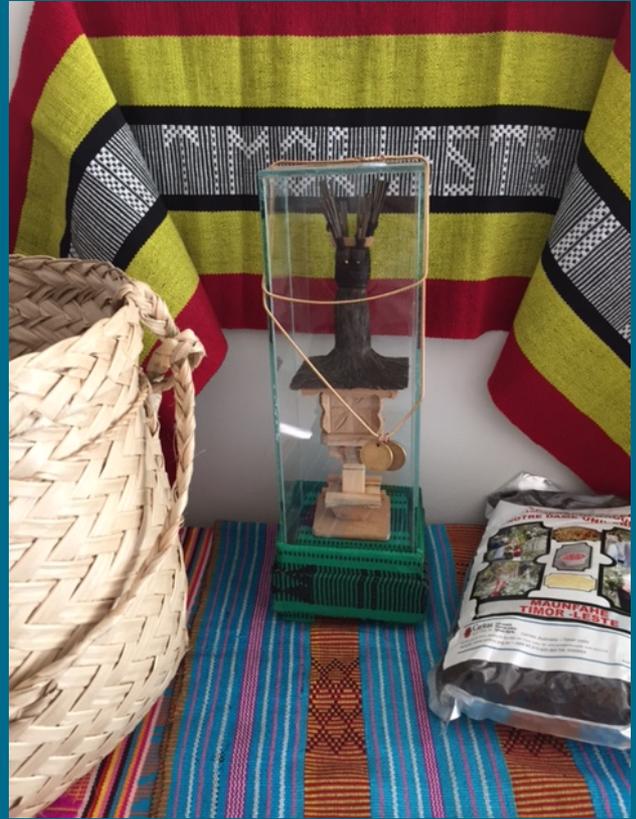
- When you visit the project sites one of community members will show you how they work (e.g. planting vegetables, weaving) and he/she may invite you to do the same. Please don't say "No". It doesn't mean he/she wants to test you but he/she wants you to feel and experience what they are doing everyday. ***Come with an open mind**
- The community members love to listen and welcome any of your input. They will be very grateful as you can see and hear their situation and condition of life. *** You will learn from us, we can learn from you!**
- Don't reject any offer (food or anything), please! Even you don't really like it, just receive and keep. This is a symbol of acceptance and respect. *** It's important for us as the hosts to be generous, so please be polite**
- People in Timor Leste have a set of cultural norms and places which we call "lulik"/sacred and you are not allow to visit and/or to get in unless by the permission of Lia Na'in/the traditional elders. Timor Leste is mostly Catholic. You are require to wear appropriate dress attending the Mass. *** Please show genuine RESPECT for our culture.**

A story from the field ~
*Coffee beans, planting crops.....and two
coins*



A story from the field ~
*Coffee beans, planting crops....and two
coins*





And those 2 coins



Summary

- **A positive, mutually beneficial outcome is not guaranteed by an immersion experience or partnership. Nor is it achieved without its challenges. Preparation is KEY.**
- It is paramount, in light of our Christian call to "love others as we love ourselves" that student immersions be mutually beneficial; for both those being visited and those visiting.
- If a service component is desired on your visit, please wait to be invited. Assistance may be welcome...or not.
- We share a common humanity. Honour that.
- ***If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together. (Lilla Watson, Aboriginal elder, activist Qld)***

Summary

LISTEN, LEARN, DISCERN, AFFIRM

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS ~

**Let's learn together with open minds and
generous hearts.**



DISCERN with CST

“We believe”



HUMAN DIGNITY

Every person is created in God's image. All human life is sacred. We believe in the dignity of each person.



SUBSIDIARITY

Every person has a right to participate in the decisions that affect their own lives.



PARTICIPATION

Every person can be the architect of change in their own life.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Everyone has the right to access the means to support themselves and their family



STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Stewardship of the Earth's resources is vital for the common good of people.



SOLIDARITY

We are part of one human family. We have a responsibility to help each person achieve their full potential.



THE COMMON GOOD

We believe in working towards the common good and looking beyond our own personal interests.



PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR

Prioritising women, men and children most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

Go to the people
Walk beside the people, at their pace
Learn from the people
Plan with the people
Work with the people
Start with what they know
Build on what they have
Teach by showing, learn by doing
Not a showcase, but a pattern
Not piecemeal , but integrated
Not odds and ends, but assisting
Not to conform, but to *transform*
Not relief, but release



Adapted from Yen Yangchu
20th Century community-based development pioneer, Sichuan Province

Thank you



The Catholic agency
for international aid
and development

Just Visiting

- How to use this resource >
- Reflective Practice: A Primer >
- Immersion Overview >
- Defining Motivations >
- Potential and Risks >
- Preparing to maximise potential >
- CST for best practice >
- Final reflection questions >
- Conclusion >

Note: Please [contact us](#) to arrange a professional development workshop on the themes in the JUST VISITING? resource.

[Home](#) > [Learn](#) > [For schools](#) > Just Visiting

Prepared?
Mutually beneficial?
Invited? Imposing?
Long or short term impact?

JUST VISITING?

Observing? Learning?
Changing? Why?



USING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING TO INFORM REFLECTIVE PRACTICE IN SCHOOL IMMERSIONS

What is Just Visiting?

JUST VISITING? is a guide developed in the spirit of reflective practice using Catholic Social Teaching principles as a framework. It is an invitation to Australian Catholic School teachers and school leadership teams to join us as we reflect, evaluate and challenge ourselves to achieve best practise in the area of Global Education and student immersion travel.

Welcome Teachers

Caritas Australia works to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity because we believe it is a necessary response to the Gospel call of Jesus. This response is central to our faith, and is also central to every Australian Catholic school's identity.

Our response to the complex issues and situations we and our students will face as people of faith, must be rooted in love and a deep respect for human dignity. This service has



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COMMUNITY PROFILES- ACTIVITY

1. WHAT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
2. WHAT SHOULD FUNDERS INVEST IN TO IMPROVE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
3. IDENTIFY TOP **THREE** RECOMMENDATIONS TO FUNDERS REGARDING WHAT THEY SHOULD SUPPORT BASED ON DISCUSSION

How do you
know what you
need unless
you know what
you have?

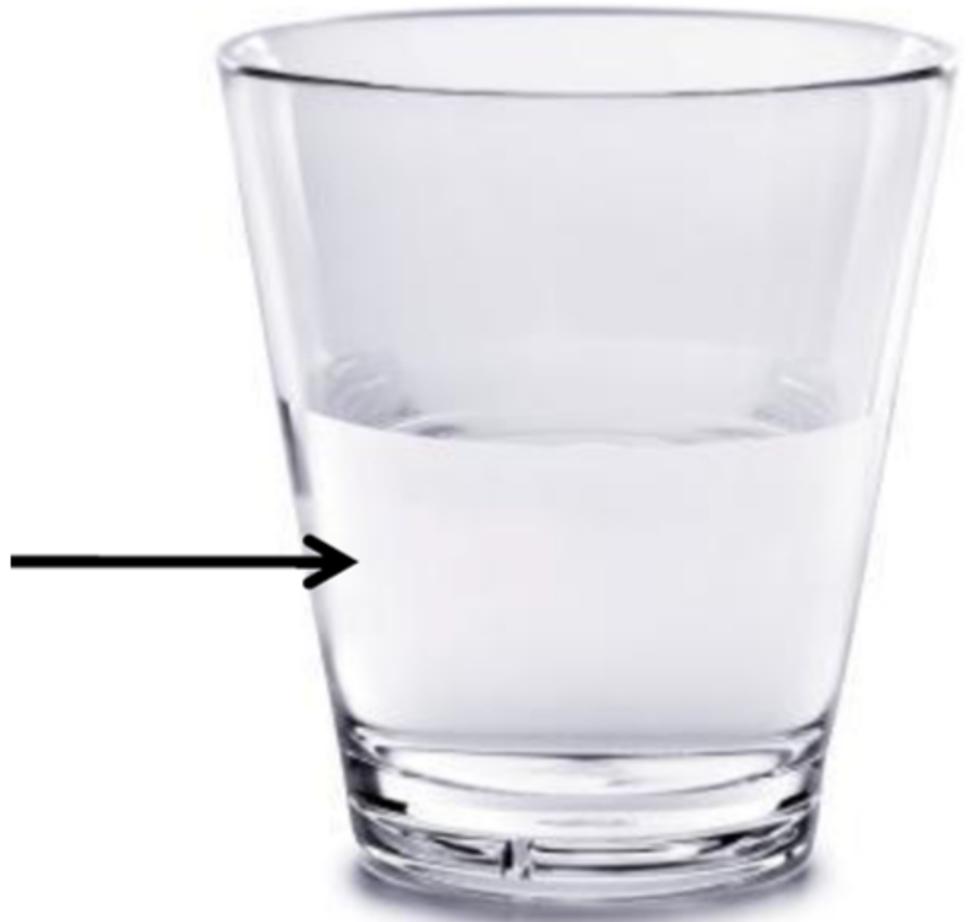


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ASSETS CAN INCLUDE:

- Stories of past success
- Knowledge, experiences, innovations, talents and skills of individuals
- Physical assets and natural resources
- Financial resources
- Cultural assets (including traditions of mutual aid and collective action – e.g. the spirit of Ubuntu – the belief that a person is only a person through the help of others, including values such as compassion, respect and human dignity)
- Local institutions
- Associations and social networks



MY STANDPOINT

“Immersions are worth it no matter the cost.”