Australian Catholic University

Inside / Outside Perspectives on Community Engagement
ACU ideals for its graduates

Highly competent in their chosen field
Ethical in behaviour
With a developed critical habit of mind
An appreciation of the sacred in life
A commitment to serving the common good
As Marianne Williams said:

In every community there is work to be done

In every nation there are wounds to heal

In every heart there is the power to do it
Descriptors

- Mutuality
- Social Inclusion/exclusion
- Sustainability
- Builds capacity
- Collaborative
- Empowering
- Partnership
- Transformative
- Civic responsibility
- Corporate social responsibility
• 10 years ago
• 15% of school leavers attended university now it is 22%
• 2% of population were born in Asia now it is 8%
• More people are living alone
• More people are working, less leisure time
• Move away from organised family and group activities to individual pursuits. e.g.: gym, virtual computer games
• Due to technological revolution there is less social interaction, e.g.: shopping, banking travel arrangements can be done on line
Community Engagement Model

Plan
Implement
Improve
Review
Risks in partnership

• For the Community:

• We are partnering people who have suffered social injustice, rejection and marginalisation. Such people are often vulnerable to further injury through misunderstanding, ignorance and insensitivity by the pressure to produce outcomes. The most destructive outcome could cause further alienation
Risks for the University

Resources
Transfer of knowledge
Social Realities
Resistance
Beyond Today

• **Beyond Disadvantage:**
  • Reaching out to those marginalised in our society

• **Beyond Boarders**
  • Participating in action for change beyond our national boundaries

• **Beyond Differences**
  • Promoting community engagement enriched by Inter-faith and inter-cultural understandings
Atherton Gardens
Homework Club
Cultural Differences
Clemente Australia

• Transformative education program
• Certificate of Liberal Arts
• Studying the Humanities
• Aims to break the cycle of
• Poverty
• Social injustice
• Inequity
Catalyst Clemente

Prerequisites:

- A desire to learn
- A willingness to commit to a 12 week program
- A literacy level that is sufficient to read a newspaper
- Some stability in their lives
Student Support

- Inductions
- Learning partners
- Academic Skills staff
- ACU library
- ACU and Mission
- Australia co-ordinators
- Child care: JET program
The Invisible Woman

Catalyst Clemente Inspired this woman to apply to the dental Hospital to repair her completely decayed teeth. She said “I have a reason to smile now and don’t want to do it with shame.”
Reflection

What has ACU come to know?
It works, it contributes to positively changing our social structure
It takes planning, long term commitment, reflection
co-ordination & monitoring

What are we going to do with this knowledge?
Commit to it by formalising CE into ACU’s teaching, learning,
research and international activities
Adopt a precinct approach
Offer staff & student awards for CE and Development
Developed a strategic plan for CE and inform public policy & practice
Map all CE activities on ACU website
Thank you