# ACU AND DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE LEARNING

**OUTPUT PACK** 

**JULY 2019** 





#### **WORKSHOP APPROACH: DESIGN THINKING**

Over the course of the three day conference, a Design Thinking approach was used to capture the key themes from presentations and roundtable discussions

#### What is Design Thinking?

Design Thinking is about designing for change. It's about putting people at the centre, creating new values, and working together to cocreate and innovate together. It involves people with diverse perspectives collaborating to drive creativity and allow breakthroughs to emerge.

As part of this, the presentations and roundtable discussions were observed and key themes synthesised from discovery and different points of view.

#### **Affinity Clustering**

This Design Thinking method provides a quick way to make sense out of information by organising single data points into clusters that have internal meaning and relationships to one another.

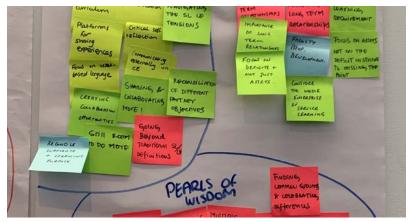
As part of this, all the information captured on post-its was read through and grouped into rose (benefits), bud (opportunities) and thorn (challenges) categories. Similar ideas were then grouped into clusters of related themes.

#### **How Might We (MHW)**

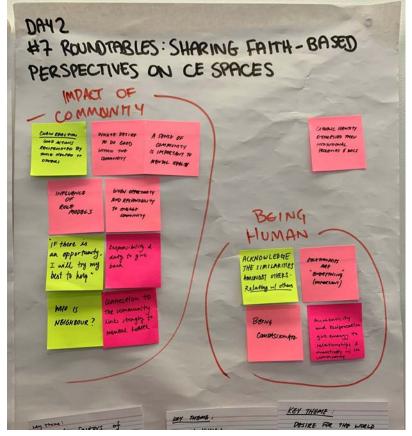
This technique was used to reframe the problem statement and shape bold ideation questions using insights from discussion. The aim of this exercise is to help users to think outside the box when addressing issues.

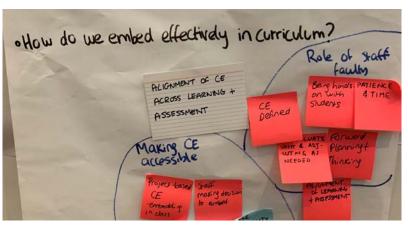
#### **WORKSHOP OUTPUTS: KEY THEMES**

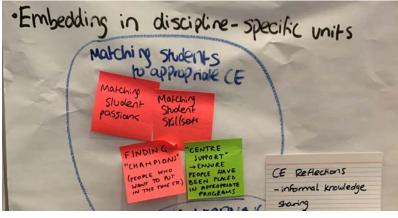
The following slides outline the key themes emerging from each presentation / roundtable discussion. These themes are entered into more detail in the Appendix











Celebrating community engagement and service learning

Importance of meaningful partnerships

Life-long impact

of CE

Contemporary challenges in community engagement (CE) and service learning (SL) for Catholic institutions

Staff are central to delivery & leadership

> CE role in addressing long term challenges

**CE** developing future student leaders

How might we work together to share & learn on



Celebrating community engagement and service learning

Importance of setting example & demonstrating results

Vice-Chancellor's address

How might we ensure motivation for CE is not for self-gain?

Providing ample opportunity / time for CE

Opportunities to engage local & international communities



Celebrating community engagement and service learning

Difficulties encountered by indigenous staff & students

Opportunities to engage indigenous communities

Community engagement/service learning programs from the fields of health and science

Developing scalable CE programs

Clear connection to course work motivating students

Reviewing CE
programs to
ensure
community sees
value



Celebrating community engagement and service learning

Focus on communities rather than business / industry

Community engagement/service learning through the eyes of community organisations

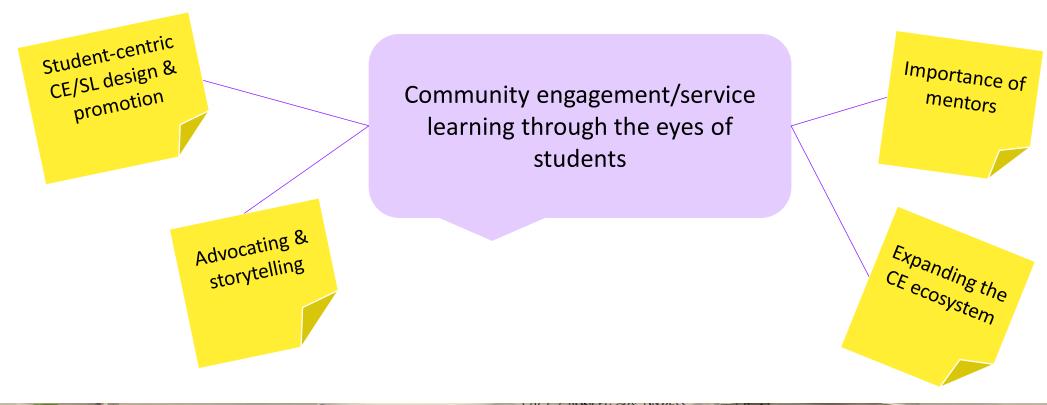
How are our relationships with community and community organisations changing?

Importance of parent's role in education

Students may not be ready for true international CE



Celebrating community engagement and service learning





Celebrating community engagement and service learning

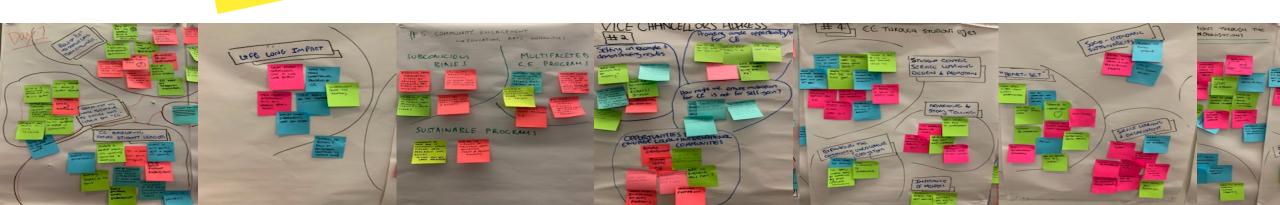
Subconscious biases among students

Moving beyond reflecting on what life is 'like' for others to 'systemic causes' of inequality

Community engagement/service learning programs from the fields of education, arts, and humanities

Developing students
who can reflect on the
socio-cultural & political
factors that influence
disadvantage

Multi-faceted, sustainable CE programs



Celebrating community engagement and service learning

Difficulties teaching with rapidly changing laws

We can do more to support student self-care & well-being in the CE/SL process

Community engagement/service learning programs from the fields of business, law, and social sciences

Pro-bono experience in every law course (Thomas Moore)

Risk of pro-bono experience being oppressive for students

Open forum at beginning of every class (Consulting Skills)



Developing our community engagement and service learning praxis

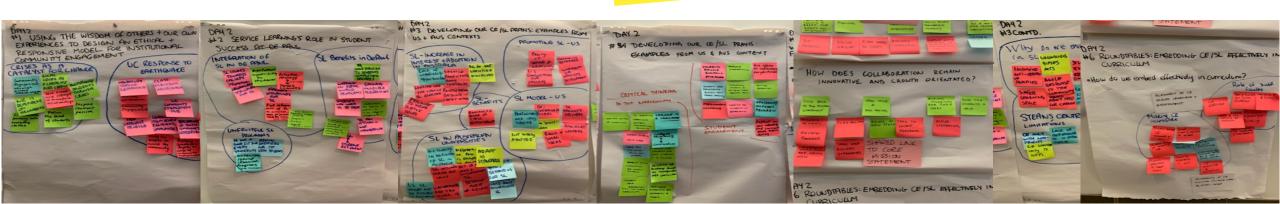
Crises as a catalyst for change

Inspiring students through crises Using the wisdom of others and our own experiences to design an ethical and responsive model for institutional community engagement

Mandatory
CE/SL classes

Focus on embedding
SL frameworks and
models into
curriculum

Using uni assets to assist the community



Developing our community engagement and service learning praxis

Students working on

Full integration of SL into DePaul's mission

real-world problems

SL counting towards faculty promotion

Service learning's role in student success at DePaul

> SL directly related to student retention

Unfruitful SL programs leading to bad student experiences

Platforms for students sharing their own experiences (beyond the classroom)



Developing our community engagement and service learning praxis

Increase in adoption of CE/SL in Australia

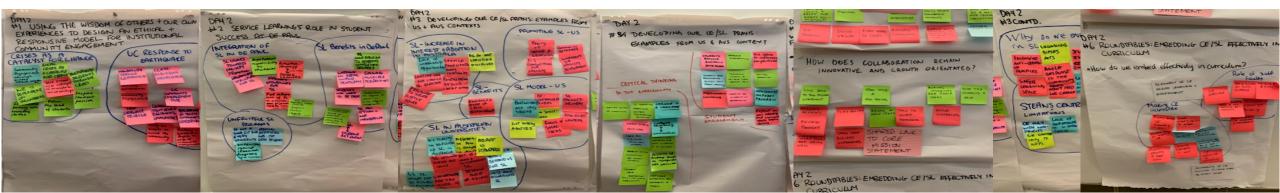
CE/SL providing enhanced sense of civil duty

Developing our community engagement/ service learning praxis: examples from US and Australian contexts

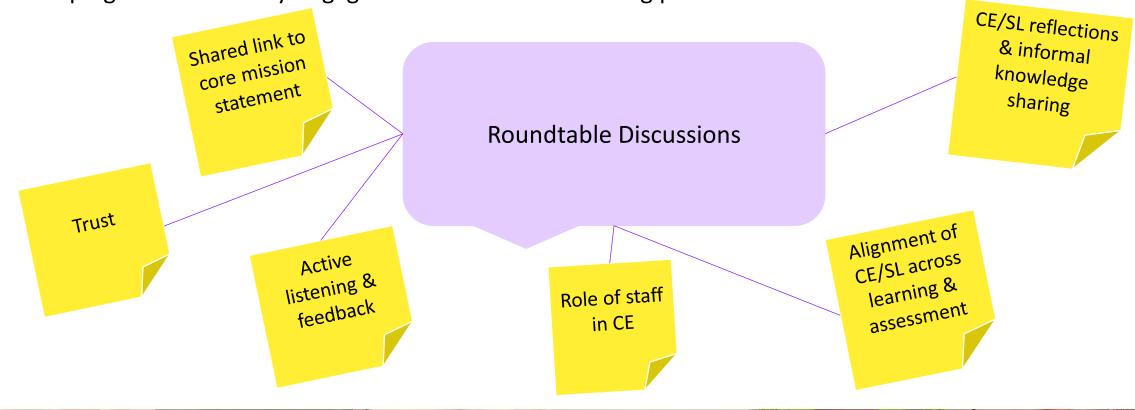
Using ideas to influence perspectives

Evolution of educational purpose

Critical selfreflection on our own praxis



Developing our community engagement and service learning praxis





Talk to action

GLE providing opportunities for international exposure

Symbiotic growth (teacher + student)

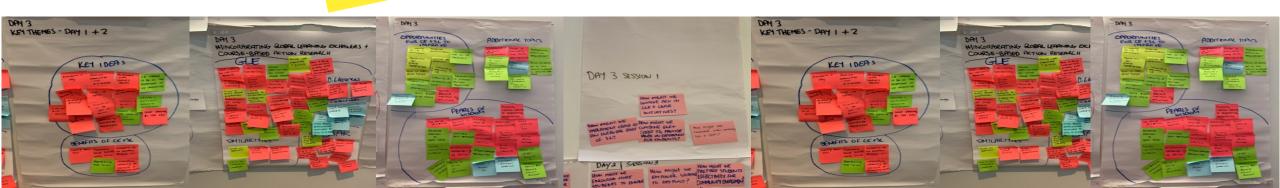
Challenges
Working across
multiple
locations

Incorporating global learning exchanges and course-based action research: pedagogical opportunities for Australian Catholic University and DePaul University

Study abroad available only for 4% students

Virtual international exposure

CBAR mission – promotes social change



#### **SUMMARY: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

A sum up of the discovery key findings and subsequent next steps

There is an overarching theme for breaking down the 'silos', ideas sharing to promote learning on CE/SL and collaborating between the two universities; the conference marked the start of this.

Common themes across the affinity clustering and "how might we" statements suggest there is a need to:

Have a greater integration of **assets-based language** and focus in CE/SL relationships and courses

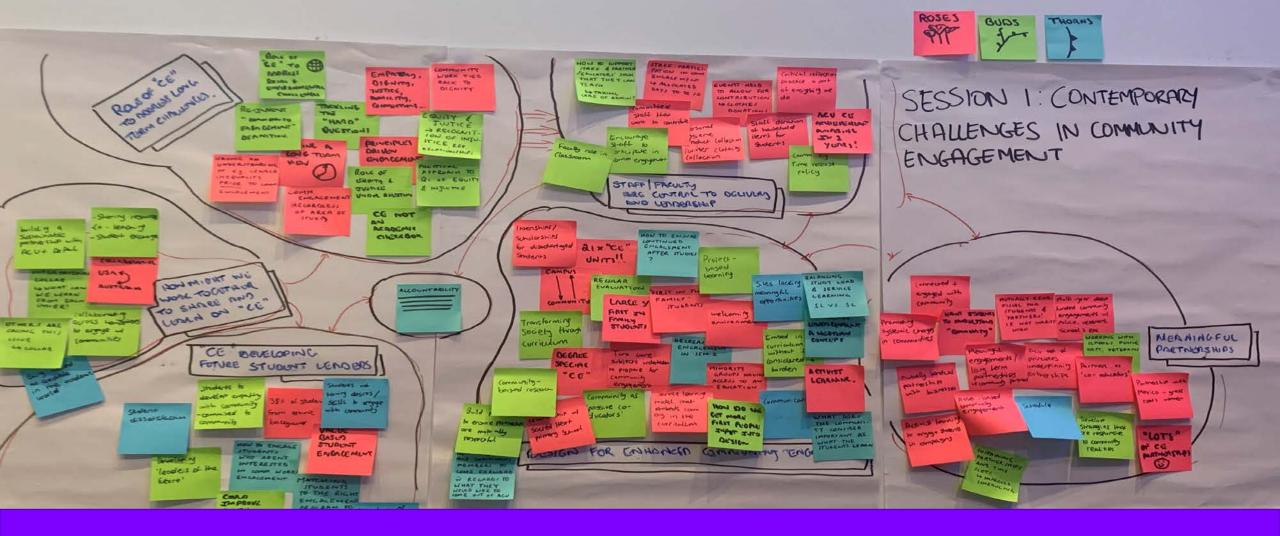
Do more to support **student self-care** and well-being in the CE/SL process, particularly through fully integrating CE/SL into the universities' mission

Promote **staff engagement** in CE & SL through time release policies and institutional recognition

Better align CE/SL across learning & assessment, while providing students with ample opportunity and time to engage in CE/SL



# **APPENDIX**



# **Appendix 1: Affinity Clustering**

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
Connected and engaged with one's community	Difficult to ensure continued engagement after students complete their studies	Regular evaluation of programs		
Mutually beneficial work – CE benefits students and community partners, i.e. it is not "charity work"	CE sites lacking meaningful opportunities	Encourage community members to come forward with regards to what they would like to see out of ACU's CE program	How might we continue to	
Asset-based community engagement	Managing study load and CE/SL	Build trust to ensure partnerships are mutually respectful	develop meaningful partnerships with	
Partners considered "co-educators"	Surplus of volunteers	Working with local schools, police departments, veterans	community partners?	
ACU set of principles underpins relationships with community partners	Schedule difficulties	Sustaining partnerships by keeping regular "time slots" for CE		Sustainable, Meaningful Partnerships
	Decreased engagement in CE in semester 2	Review programs to ensure community partners still see the value		
Students write letter of closure when finishing work with community partner	Students may discontinue CE after graduating	Experienced students training new students		
Reflecting on a program's success before, during, and after		Students staying with particular CE partners throughout their degree $\rightarrow$ greater retention rate	How might we create a	
		Use of Facebook groups to maintain communication between past and present students involved in particular CE programs	sustainable volunteer base?	
		Important for new programs to be scalable		

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
Crises is often used as a catalyst for change	Students involved in a crises may cut back on CE – communities need consistency	University assets used to assist community in the midst of crises	How might we encourage continued CE among students following crises?	Sustainable, Meaningful Partnerships (cont.)
Self-determination philosophy	Scheduling issues	Important for students to actively look around to identify social issues		
Making new friends	Hard to track longitudinal progress of CE	Breaking down subconscious biases by pairing ACU students with students in community facilities – e.g. students who are sick, in prison/correctional facilities, public housing etc.	How might CE affect students long-term?	
Students' priorities are changing – CE work puts things in perspective	Shallow, brief engagement with community – low impact			
CE restores hope/has created a sense of community at ACU				The Impact of CE
Setting an example for other universities		Data collection to demonstrate CE results/impact	How might we demonstrate	
High percentage of "first in the family" students			our CE impact?	
Internships/scholarships for disadvantaged students		Equity and justice – recognising past injustices in order to move forward	How might we use CE to address long-term socio-	
CE work focussed around human dignity		Developing an understanding of inequalities (e.g. gender inequality) <i>prior</i> to CE	political challenges?	

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
Two core subjects undertaken to prepare for community engagement	Difficult to engage students who aren't interested in CE	Matching students to the right program for them → if CE work is particularly demanding emotionally (e.g. in high security prisons), it's important for students to be interviewed to ensure they will be able to cope  How might we develop future student leaders  The Impact of C	The Impact of CE (cont.)	
CE contributes to fulfilling lives → great future leaders	Student dissatisfaction with program	A greater integration of assets-based	through CE?	
	Students may lack skills required to engage with community	language and focus in CE/SL relationships and courses		
CE is motivation for students	Takes time for students to see and appreciate the value of CE – hence importance of engaging them in their first year	More time for CE in first year of studies  – establish relationships early	How might we make CE	
Broad range of engagement opportunities	Need to promote more CE "success stories"	Ask students what CE makes the most sense to them	more student centric from design and promotion perspectives?	
Community is creating a demand for CE				Enhancing CE for Students
CE built into workload – opportunities are available to all staff and students	Risk of burning out		How might we ensure adequate CE opportunities	
Ethical training for students	Students stressed and under pressure		(for both students and staff)?	
Pro bono experiences (e.g. in every law course)	CE budget reached			

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
	To a degree, self-gain may be necessary to motivate students and staff	Students and staff asking themselves what they give to the community, aside from what they are paid to do	How might we ensure that CE motivation is not for self-gain?	
CE built into curriculum – currently 21 CE units available to students	Students not studying health/sciences may be less inclined to do health-related community work	Opportunity for students to build leadership skills	How might we improve	Enhancing CE for Students (cont.)
Recognising benefits (beyond grades, subject completion, etc.) e.g. self-worth		Clarify connection between course and CE work	student motivation for CE?	
CE committee to address challenges				
Homework clubs with local schools and communities	Many sport/school programs, but are we engaging the poor, the sick, the elderly?	Engaging with the youth → stronger communities in future		
Use of cultural ambassadors	Need more CE partners	Using sport as a bridge between communities		
Parents play an active role in education		Focus on community members' strengths and assets when creating CE programs		
		Community groups may already have programs underway – ask how ACU can work with those running these programs		
		Involvement in CE programs that have multiple effects e.g. The Big Issue benefits vendors, the community (money is reinvested), and educates individuals		

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
Refugee engagement e.g. Barefoot Nursing Program in East Timor	21 million refugees, 65 million displaced people	ACU to join climate advocacy group		
Programs in 21 countries – many of them sport programs (which improves mental and physical wellbeing)	Low female participation in sport programs	Multifaceted CE programs (i.e. that address more than one social issue) e.g. homework clubs can incorporate sessions where job seeking skills are built	How might we increase the scale, reach, and impact of	Expanding CE Programs (cont.)
Students to conduct studies to determine gaps in the system e.g. housing programs for domestic violence victims don't take pets (which can deter victims), so DePaul students developed a pet foster-care program		Connect with past students and staff to broaden CE opportunities	CE?	
Teaching of Australian culture → increasing migrants' sense of belonging		Important to consider all aspects of an event when planning e.g. dietary requirements		
Improved inter-cultural understanding			How might we create a culture of welcome for	Enhancing CE for Partners
Skill-up program – networking opportunities			migrant communities?	Limancing CL for Fartilets
Safe environment for multi-cultural communities				

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
	Tension between cultures	Looking at how other universities have addressed indigenous engagement		
	Society's demands and employment opportunities	Improving participation of students who don't have a western background		
	Culture conflict in western universities	Scholarships to enable indigenous leaders	How might we address	Enhancing CE for Partners
	Loss of cultural identity	Introducing indigenous scholars to students	difficulties in indigenous	(cont.)
		Improving education on history of Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders		
		Input from indigenous communities with regards to what they would like to see out of ACU's CE program		
CE experience has a life-long impact		CE "time release" policy for staff/faculty		
Staff are allocated days for participation in community engagement		Staff/faculty role in the classroom	How might we support and	
Events held throughout the year where staff and students can contribute e.g. clothing donations		CE to count towards staff/faculty promotion	encourage staff to continue CE?	Staff and CE
Critical reflection is a part of the ACU culture				

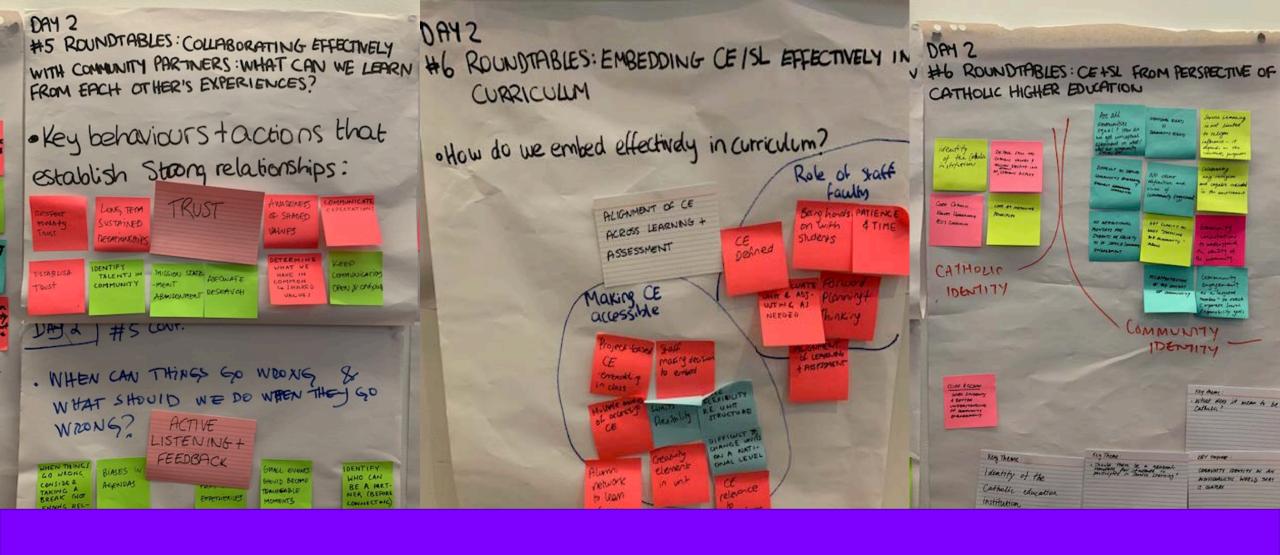
Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
Committed staff that are eager to contribute		Accountability: sharing photos with one another (e.g. via Facebook page) when at CE events	How might we ensure accountability between staff	
Extensive support for staff and students			and students for commitment to CE?	
Students exposed to minority groups		Do more to support student self-care and well-being in the CE/SL process		
Conducting surveys				Staff and CE (cont.)
Recognising alumni who continue CE engagement after their studies		Rephrasing "community service"   "professional experience"	How might we grow CE within our own environment?	
Community sport to improve health → create a culture of teamwork		Build CE into degree structure		
Focus on embedding SL frameworks and models into curriculum		"Mates 4 Mates" program		

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
SL network across Australian universities	No clarity in the definition of SL in Australia	ACU and other Australian universities should adopt US standards		
Universities are the centre of SL	Australia is years behind US in SL			
One-on-one consultation for staff	Majority of Australian universities don't incorporate SL		How might we increase interest and adoption of SL in Australian universities?	
Community retreats	US SL structure may not be possible in Australia			The Role of Service Learning
US uses a de-centralised model				in Student Success
Matching student passions	Over-reliance on metrics	"Centre Support" → ensure people have been placed in appropriate programs		
Matching student skillsets	Lack of change and improvement in an ever-changing environment	How might we ensure that students are the right fit for their SL program?		
Student conference to celebrate SL and exchange SL experiences			. 0	

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
Service participation through internships	SL not a good fit for every university	Institutional responsibility to students		
SL contributes to students completing degrees	Administrative barriers for "first in the family" students	4 Ps for retention model: Profile, Progress, Process, Promise (establish a brand)		
Students are working on real-world problems	Unfruitful SL programs → bad experiences	SL changing curriculum content – "sociological thinking"		
As SL is an option, SL students want to be there	Lack of internship opportunities	Faculty have influence over what is learned in SL courses	How might we create better	The Role of Service Learning
Exposure to social justice issues	Conflicting curriculums at university	Lessons of history should be incorporated into curriculum	SL experiences for students?	in Student Success (cont.)
Enhanced sense of civic responsibility		Self-care component very cathartic for students		
Safer learning space		Breaking down unconscious biases		
Students' sense of ownership		Student self-reflection build into course curriculum		

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
Students become socially engaged	Students have preconceived biases about service opportunities	Explore interpretations of SL		
Use ideas to influence perspectives	Neutrality impedes progress	Critical reflection	Have wight Cl. influence ACH	
Experiential learning	SL promotes "saviour" complex	Challenge students to critique their personal views	How might SL influence ACU students?	
Looking for students with experiences		Transform and resolve societal issues with community-based SL courses		
Everyone has the ability to contribute; everyone has a passion		SL should not just be about volunteering		
Building strong foundations	CE limited to not-for-profits	Important to raise awareness		The Role of Service Learning in Student Success (cont.)
Direct community impact	Lack of representation in certain fields	Tools integrated into assignments		
Students see the impact of their involvement in the community	SL usually involves one-way dialogue	Asset-based approach to service	How might a STEANS-like	
Staff development	SL usually only addresses symptoms – not factors – of inequality	Engaging in critical self-reflection	centre benefit ACU?	
Students excited about their subjects	Majority of impacted ethnic groups are underrepresented			
Transformational learning	Dominance of western logic – individualism over utilitarianism			

Rose (Benefits)	Thorn (Challenges)	Bud (Opportunities)	Statement Starter	Themes
Opportunities for international exposure	Challenging to work in multiple locations	More hands on experience		
Students from differing locations interacting	Limited GLE opportunities - Study Abroad opportunities only available to 4% of students	IT enhanced learning		
Enhancement of Study Abroad courses by combining GLE and CBAR	GLE not necessarily focussed on communities → GLE is focussed on international experiences	Importance of exposing students to similarities and differences (culturally and politically)	How might we incorporate GLE and course-based action research (CBAR)	
Opportunity to engage staff and students cross culturally	GLE and CBAR timeframe challenges		initiatives at ACU?	
Symbiotic growth between teacher and student	GLE takes a long time to implement			Opportunities for CE and SL
Ethical research methods				to Improve
Finding common grounds and celebrating differences	Reconcile corporate and learning purpose	Harness passion, but have a balance to prevent burnout		
Going beyond traditional SL/CE definitions	Lack of student support and follow up could be damaging to CE/SL programs	Create collaboration opportunities		
There are multiple ways of implementing CE/SL	Require more platforms for student sharing	Embedding CE/SL into curriculum	How might CE/SL at ACU improve further?	
Regular reminders of the importance of human dignity		Build a suite of resources		
Education through raising consciousness		Focus on asset-based language		



# **Appendix 2: Roundtable Discussions**

# APPENDIX 2: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (1/4)

Collaborating effectively with community partners: What can we learn from each other's experiences?

Question	Discussion Points	Key Themes*
What key behaviours and actions establish strong relationships?	<ul> <li>Respect &amp; honesty</li> <li>Trust</li> <li>Identifying talents in community</li> <li>Adequate research</li> <li>Awareness of shared values</li> <li>Communicate expectations</li> <li>Open &amp; ongoing communication</li> </ul>	☐ Trust☐ Shared values
When can things go wrong and what should we do when they do go wrong?	<ul> <li>Take a break (not ending relationship)</li> <li>Biases in agendas</li> <li>Be present</li> <li>Drive value</li> <li>Know when to stop</li> <li>Active strategising</li> <li>Small events becoming teachable moments</li> <li>Early intervention</li> <li>Gender imbalance</li> <li>Identify who can become a partner early</li> </ul>	☐ Active listening & feedback

<sup>\*</sup>Key themes comprise discussion points that came up multiple times among groups

# **APPENDIX 2: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (1/4)**

Collaborating effectively with community partners: What can we learn from each other's experiences? (contd.)

Question	Discussion Points	Key Themes*
How does collaboration remain innovative and growth orientated?	<ul> <li>Link back to mission statement</li> <li>Regular reviews</li> <li>Celebrate when things go well</li> <li>Flexibility</li> <li>Showcase success experiences</li> <li>Open-mindedness &amp; risk-taking</li> <li>Bring in new staff with fresh perspectives</li> <li>Tools to collect feedback</li> <li>Ask students for ideas</li> <li>Active listening</li> </ul>	☐ Active listening ☐ Student voice

<sup>\*</sup>Key themes comprise discussion points that came up multiple times among groups

# APPENDIX 2: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (2/4)

Embedding community engagement / service learning effectively in curriculum

Question	Discussion Points	Key Themes*
How do we embed community engagement / service learning effectively in curriculum?	<ul> <li>Making CE / SL accessible:</li> <li>Project-based CE embedded in class subjects</li> <li>Multiple modes for accessing CE</li> <li>Alumni network to learn from</li> <li>Creativity element in unit</li> <li>Make CE relevant to curriculum</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ Accessibility of CE/SL (multiple modes)</li> <li>□ Alignment of CE/SL across learning &amp; assessment</li> </ul>
	Role of staff/faculty:  Define CE  Be hands-on with students  Patience & time  Forward planning & thinking  Alignment of learning & assessment  Staff have limited flexibility re unit structure  Difficult to make change at a national level	

<sup>\*</sup>Key themes comprise discussion points that came up multiple times among groups

# APPENDIX 2: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (2/4)

Embedding community engagement / service learning effectively in curriculum (contd.)

Question	Discussion Points	Key Themes*
How do we embed community engagement / service learning effectively in discipline-specific units?	<ul> <li>Matching students to appropriate CE/SL:</li> <li>Matching student passions</li> <li>Matching student skillsets</li> <li>Finding CE/SL "champions" i.e. people who want to put time in</li> <li>"Centre support" to ensure people have been placed in appropriate programs</li> </ul>	□ CE/SL reflections – informal knowledge sharing
	<ul> <li>Staff learning &amp; development:</li> <li>Importance of working as a team</li> <li>Student feedback in real-time (not end of term)</li> <li>CE/SL knowledge sharing</li> <li>Staff &amp; CE team at ACU meeting regularly</li> <li>Inter-disciplinary communication to identify what is working well</li> <li>Train-the-trainer workshops</li> <li>Professional learning for staff</li> </ul>	

<sup>\*</sup>Key themes comprise discussion points that came up multiple times among groups

# APPENDIX 2: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (3/4)

Community Engagement & Service Learning from the perspective of Catholic Higher Education

Question	Discussion Points	Key Themes*
Defining community engagement and service learning from the perspective of Catholic higher education: What exactly do we mean (and not mean)?	<ul> <li>Catholic Identity:</li> <li>Core Catholic values underpinning ACU's curriculum</li> <li>Look at instilling Catholic principles</li> <li>DePaul still has Catholic values &amp; mission despite lack of upfront Catholic display</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ General mandate for students to participate in CE/SL</li> <li>□ CE in an individualistic world that is complex</li> <li>□ No clear definition and vision of CE</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Community Identity:</li> <li>Are all communities equal? How do we get conceptual alignment on what/who our community stands for?</li> <li>Individual rights vs community rights</li> <li>Difficult to define CE amongst universities</li> <li>No institutional mandate for students / faculty to do CE/SL</li> <li>Clarity needed on what "servicing the community" means</li> <li>Misappropriation of the concept of community</li> <li>SL not limited to religious influence</li> </ul>	

<sup>\*</sup>Key themes comprise discussion points that came up multiple times among groups

# APPENDIX 2: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (4/4)

Sharing faith-based perspectives on community engagement/service learning spaces

Question	Discussion Points	Key Themes*
How do we effectively share faith-based perspectives on community engagement spaces?	<ul> <li>Community impact:</li> <li>Chain reaction – good actions reciprocated by those helped by others</li> <li>Influence of role models</li> <li>"If there is an opportunity, I will try my best to help"</li> <li>Innate desire to do good within the community</li> <li>A sense of community is important for mental health</li> <li>Responsibility and duty to give back</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ Being "truly human"</li> <li>□ Having commonalities with others</li> <li>□ Importance of sense of community for mental health</li> <li>□ Vision for the world to look different</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Being human:</li> <li>Acknowledging similarities amongst others</li> <li>Reflecting with others</li> <li>Relationships are "everything"</li> <li>Authenticity and reciprocation give energy to relationships and connectivity with community</li> <li>Being compassionate</li> </ul>	

<sup>\*</sup>Key themes comprise discussion points that came up multiple times among groups

# THANK YOU FROM THE ACCENTURE TEAM

















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