

# Service learning in Lutheran schools

## Local service learning possibilities

It is essential for any local service learning project that school staff researches their local community and serve the community in planned and strategic way.

For local initiatives, you need to know your local community. There may be staff in your school who you can talk to. Do an internet search. Search the phone book. Search the local council website. Talk to people. Find out what organisation exist and how they meet the needs of the community.

Local service providers may include:

- Churches (second-hand clothing shops, food packages for the disadvantaged, child care, Sunday Schools, youth groups etc.)
- Environmental groups (land, park, ocean, forest care etc.)
- Aged care providers (aged care homes, support workers, Meals on Wheels etc.)
- Organisations that care for the homeless (soup kitchens, homeless shelters, specialist health care initiatives etc.)
- Organisations that care for youth who may have taken a difficult path
- Organisations that provide support for newly arrived refugees (English lessons, life skills sessions, friendship groups etc.)
- Organisation that provide support for people living with disabilities
- Organisations that provide support for indigenous Australians or other disadvantaged cultural groups
- Councils

As a Lutheran school, you may want to start with finding out what the local Lutheran congregation or department is involved in.

Then look wider into the community for other great service organisations.

Always have in the back of your mind two questions:

1. How can helping this organisation be an authentic Service Learning Project for our school?
2. How can serving through this organisation fit into the curriculum?

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