

Catholic Social Action and Justice (CST) 2017

Event Overview:

For the purpose of this Professional Learning, Catholic Social Action and Justice will sit above Catholic Social Teaching (CST). In accordance with 'Characteristics of a Highly Effective School', and in consultation with the organisers, work through a pathway to identify an area of social justice concern and apply a pastoral cycle of discernment. This process is designed to lead toward Social actions for justice in line with your school's vision and mission.

This (ongoing) event is an opportunity to review your school's current profile, and discern which foundational principles are explicitly evident in the life of the community.

It may also assist staff in enabling their students to understand, that call for justice is more than just charitable responses. Supporting students to develop authentic responses to the witness of Jesus' mission, will reflect more fully an understanding of the image of God as seen in the dignity of each person and, in the essence of creation.

Who can participate?

As determined by the organisers.

How will the program be structured?

The program will be structured in consultation with the organisers.

Considerations in organising this event could include the following:

1. Review where Catholic social action and justice is embedded in policies, procedures and communications within your school community and throughout the curriculum.
2. Explore where the 'See, Judge, Act' cycle might be incorporated into the Shared Christian Praxis pedagogy? 'See, Judge, Act' is commonly used by schools to discern social justice actions to assist with fundraising commitments.
3. Unpack the metaphor of two feet being required to the call of our Mission: Charity and Social Justice. Identify where your school's commitments align with actions of charity to those that are actions of Justice.
4. Review the Catholic Social Teaching foundational principles noting which ones are explicitly evident in the life of the community.
5. Explore the Mercy International Reflective Process as a model that could be implemented into your school community. Also, identify how this model could be embedded across the curriculum, as well as an opportunity for community engagement. ['ResourceSmart' School](#) is another initiative that could link to Catholic Social Action and Justice.
6. Review the Fundraising policy against your school's social action and justice initiatives/commitments.
7. Discern the difference between social action and justice, charity, and Catholic social teaching.
8. Pick topics of concern, such as the current Social Justice Statement published by ACSJC and through work through a process that can lead to just actions occurring. The 2016-2017 Statement is called, "A seat at the table: Social justice in an ageing society."

The program has been designed to:

Support the expectations outlined in 'Characteristics of a Highly Effective School' in particular, 1.3 Social Action and Justice.

To engage in the mission of the Church. This engagement will be reflected in living a life informed by the Gospel which may be reflected in teaching for, and witnessing to justice, peace and ecological conversion.

To review and embed the Fundraising Policy that has been ratified by BDSAC in June 2016.

What is expected of participants?

Be engaged in dialogue and have a willingness to be open to change.

Consider where Social Action and Justice aligns with your school's vision and mission and across the daily life of the school community.

Explore opportunities for change and commitment for Social Action and Justice.

What is required of the Principal?

Depending on the event focus considerations may include:

Providing policies, procedures and/or curriculum documentation in alignment prior to Professional Learning Event. Eg: preparing material for evidence and gap analysis audit

Support social action and justice initiatives identified by staff.

Encourage expectations with your school's vision and mission statements as well as those characteristics identified of a highly effective school.

What you can expect from the CEOB:

Work collaboratively in preparing and facilitating this event in response to your school's intentions.

Provide ongoing support with key personnel.

Provide links to relevant agencies, and/or facilitators to ensure Social Action and Justice is sustained at a high level.

Registration:

Registration for Catholic Social Teaching 2017 will be available [online](#) early in the 2017 school year.

Endorsement

John Meneely