

Intercultural Understanding in primary and secondary schools

ABOUT THE PROJECT



Deakin University, the University of Melbourne, University of Western Sydney, and RMIT University, along with the DEECD, the Together for Humanity (TFH) and Pukunui Technology are partners in an Australian Research Council (ARC) funded, school based project commencing in 2013.

The Australian curriculum argues that Intercultural Understanding is an essential part of living with others in the 21st century (ACARA, 2012). Students develop Intercultural Understanding as they learn to value their own cultures, languages and beliefs and those of others. The Melbourne Declaration recognises the fundamental role that education plays in building a society that is cohesive and culturally diverse (MCEETYA, 2008, p.4).

The Deakin University research mentors will work closely with schools, their Intercultural Understanding leadership team and teachers to collect data, support teachers to become teacher experts in Intercultural Understanding, analyse the school's individual architecture and assist in the school's redesign towards a new curriculum, in which Intercultural Understanding is purposefully integrated and strongly evidenced.

What will schools do? A school Intercultural Understanding leadership team will lead the project in each school. This team will comprise the principal and two senior staff members, one of whom is willing to undertake a leadership/coordination of the project as the Intercultural Understanding Coordinator.

The research team will also work with the partner schools and their teachers on this project to find answers to the following research questions:

- **What facilitates/impedes Intercultural Understanding in children and adolescents?**
- **What facilitates/impedes Intercultural Understanding in schools?**
- **How can this be addressed?**
- **How can we know what makes a difference?**

For further information on the project see our URL
www.interculturalunderstanding.org



Answering these questions requires an innovative cultural systems approach that considers how cultural conditions and contexts shape engagement with Intercultural communication education. Central to our approach is a research-driven approach to re-design the cultural architectures of schools. As you redevelop your curriculum to integrate Intercultural Understanding, you will receive ongoing support by Deakin University 'research mentors' for curriculum development, reporting, data collection, analysis and school redesign facilitation.

The Research team is led by: Prof Christine Halse (DU), Prof. Fethi Mansouri (DU), A/Prof. Colin Arrowsmith (RMIT), A/Prof. Julianne Moss (DU), A/Prof. Yin Paradies (DU), Dr. Ruth Arber (DU), Dr. Claire Charles (DU), Dr. Anne Cloonan (DU), Dr. Nida Denson (UWS), Dr. Sarah Ohi, Dr. Jo O'Mara (DU), Dr. Naomi Priest (Melbourne).

Industry Partners: Together for Humanity (TFH), Victorian DEECD, Victoria Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), Pukunui Technology (Moodle).

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