

Community Minded Kids Program Overview

the most innovative community-building program for children in Australia.

The Community Minded Kids (CMK) program is designed for students in stage 3 (9 – 12 years old) as part of the curriculum. The program supports children to: understand the concept of community and what it means for them; understand and explore how they can contribute to their communities; and inspires them to be change agents today with the long-term outcome of cultivating community minded adult citizens. Students develop an increased sense of connection in their school and local community, improving their overall well-being.

CMK runs for up to 2 school terms, combining in school and out of school community learning, discoveries, and activities. We have developed a comprehensive resource pack and manual for teachers supporting them in the flexible delivery of module lesson plans and activities.

Our Modules

ARE MAPPED TO

NSW Curriculum & ACARA National Curriculum Standards

ARE LINKED TO

UN Sustainable Development Goals

APPLIES THE PRINCIPLES OF

Asset Based Community Development and Appreciative Inquiry

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Program Themes & Principles

- **Education:** Community as a place of learning
- **Empowerment and Efficacy:** Citizens perceive themselves as powerful and resourceful. They have the power to create and sustain positive change in their communities
- **Enrichment:** We are enriched by the relationships, connections, and diversity that exists in our community
- **Engagement:** Engaging diverse stakeholders for effective community building
- **Equity:** Equity refers to fairness and equality in outcomes, not just in supports and opportunity



Program Flow



Program Commitment

- The school is responsible for managing all student permissions
- If the program is funded by an external body, a minimum commitment of all of one grade (grade 5 or 6) are required to participate in the program to make it viable
- Student numbers may be negotiated prior to program commencement
- Depending on the funding provided, Community Minds may support schools by facilitating some lessons or workshops
- Community Minds offer regular check-ins and support via email, telephone, and scheduled school visits
- Additional community building activities may be negotiated with the Community Minded Kids program manager

PLEASE NOTE ALL INFORMATION IN THIS PACK IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

01 Discovering Community

Module completion time: 90-100 minutes



In this module, students explore the rich assets and distinctive characteristics of their communities. The module will enhance students' understanding of human society, cultural and social assets, as well as community relationships. Students embark on a journey discovering their diverse communities, reflected in the different people, cultures, faiths, places, experiences, local history, and stories.

Students learn the meaning and characteristics of communities, discover different memberships in community, and in expanding their understanding of what 'community' is, explore ways to positively contribute to their community. Throughout their studies, students will learn to identify positive aspects and collective strengths of their communities through discovery and learning of the 6 broad community assets (explained further throughout this module). These six broad assets provide a guide for students to seek out resources, stories, and other assets in their local communities, which are then recorded in their CMK passbooks.

This module also aims to enhance student's appreciation and sense of pride in the places where they live, learn and play, enhancing their sense of connection and belonging to their communities.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

STUDENTS WILL

- have an increased sense of community and analyse personal community memberships
- identify examples of diversity and understand how valuing diversity positively influences the well-being of the community
- develop an understanding of community and the characteristics that are involved with communities
- identify ways in which they can contribute to their communities
- engage with and learn things about classmates with whom they would not usually engage

02 Me to We

Module completion time: 90-100 minutes



In this module, students learn more about the power of the collective, as opposed to just the individual in the context of making our communities and world a better place.



To think and live by the principles of solidarity and community mindedness, it is important to help contribute to building community harmony and social cohesion in our communities. Thinking "We" in our words, actions, and choices, creates a community where its citizens feel a strong sense of belonging, connection, and solidarity.

This module emphasizes the importance of feeling a sense of belonging but also recognizes our role in 'creating belonging' for others. The activities in this module allow students to identify positive elements of belonging to a community and ways to foster that sense of belonging in others.



In recognising students as valued citizens, they will learn about the concept of self-interest verse community interest and how change can be brought about through group-based leadership, cooperation, and collaboration. In exploring the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen, students will also be inspired to perceive themselves as leaders and citizens today, not just for the future. Today they can make a difference, and this module provides the tools, resources, and inspiration to work alongside others in enhancing and strengthening our communities.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

STUDENTS WILL

- learn different ways to contribute to achieving solidarity in their communities
- learn how to be active citizens by exploring different ways they can participate in their communities
- understand the interdependence of people within the community and their role in it
- understand the importance of belonging and how they can create belonging for others
- learn about self-interest versus community interest, developing confidence to participate in and contribute to civic and community life, turning a 'me' generation into a 'we' generation

03 Community Matters

Module completion time: 90-100 minutes

Community Matters is twofold in its meaning. The first related to issues, events, developments or any 'matters' that may impact communities, societies, and the world. The second is related to the importance of community and how community matters so much in our lives, for without community we lose connection to others.



Community Matters can be addressed if we speak up, tell our stories, advocate for ourselves and others, have meaningful conversations, and take actions that may help address the challenges and issues our communities face.

This module encourages in class dialogues, conversations, and friendly classroom debates, encouraging students to unpack big community and social issues, whilst also learning to listen to others and gaining insight into different perspectives and experiences.

Various topics can be explored in this module. We encourage students to choose the topics or challenges that matter to them. Big challenges such as homelessness or more school-based issues such as bullying may be the kind of topics discussed. Caring for our natural environment, inclusion of people with a disability, and refugee rights are also some examples of issues the class may want to explore.

Community Matters module activities explore four main areas:

1. What matters to me? What matters to us?
2. How does this matter relate to/affect social justice, human rights, inclusion, equity, and our/dignity?
3. Who needs our help? Who can help?
4. What can we do to address these matters? What tools can I access to create change on this issue?

In completing the module, students will be inspired to make changes where they can in addressing matters that impact communities.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

STUDENTS WILL

- gain a deeper understanding of social justice and the differences between equity and equality
- learn more about some of the challenges and injustices that dramatically impact the quality of life for certain populations
- explore topics of interest (choice) and ways to impact change (voice)
- learn about the benefits of creating environments of mutual respect and inclusiveness and promoting justice for all

04 Giving Back

Module completion time: 90-100 minutes

This module explores the benefits of volunteering and kindness through exchanges of time and by identifying non-conventional ways of paying it forward.



Students will learn the benefits of doing good by acting with empathy and integrity and thinking of ways to contribute to their community by celebrating people who give back.

This module explores various ways of giving back to our communities that aim to have a positive impact on others and create ripple effects.

The giving back module allows families to become involved in their children's learning. Community Minds provides schools with resources to send home with students (optional) to inspire and encourage families to participate in their communities by giving back.



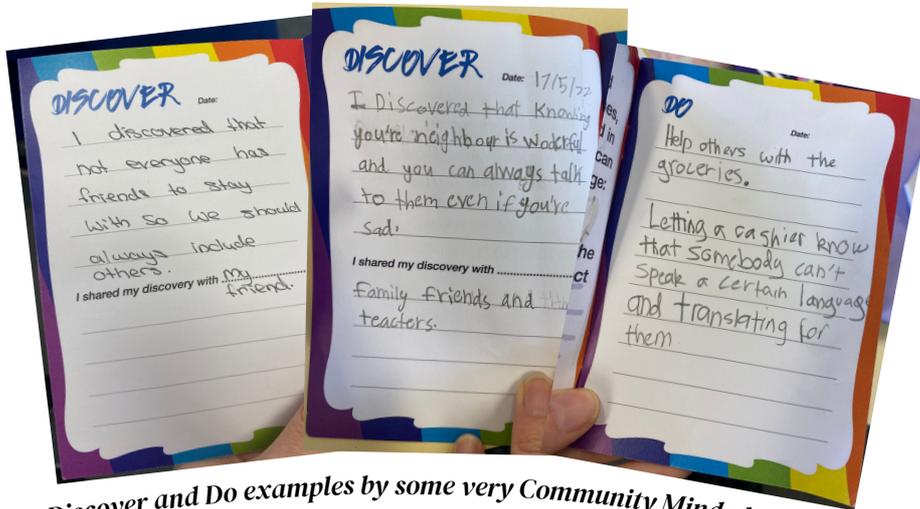
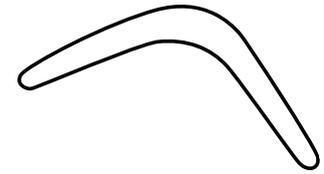
LEARNING OUTCOMES

STUDENTS WILL

- identify the values and benefits that giving back has for individuals and the community
- learn ways that they can contribute to their community by offering their time and volunteering
- identify and acknowledge volunteers in their community
- develop an appreciative mindset, seeking out and focusing on positives and possibilities in their school and community

Discover & Do

In Community



Discover and Do examples by some very Community Minded students

Students complete 2 discover and 2 do activities in their passbooks (featured left) following each module. Discover and do's help solidify student learning experiences and allow students to initiate their own ways of becoming involved in their community.

“Each week students complete a ‘Discover’ and ‘Do’ activity in the local community, encouraging students to both identify assets in their community and act in a way that positively contributes to the community.”

To assist students with completing and documenting these out-of-class activities, each student receives a Community Minded Kids passbook.



Students brainstorm their own discover and do ideas and are encouraged to participate in community

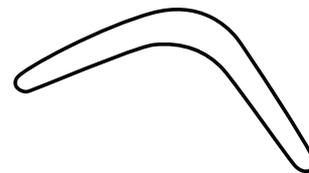
Students share their discoveries and experiences with teachers and peers

Students develop a sense of community, through feeling valued and recognised for their efforts

Students feel a sense of pride and belonging for having identified assets in their community and having acted as a community minded citizen

NSW

Stage 3 Curriculum Mapping



Cross-Curriculum Priorities	Module 1 Discovering Community	Module 2 Me to We	Module 3 Community Matters	Module 4 Giving Back
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures 🇺🇸	✓	✓		
Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia 🌏	✓	✓		
Sustainability 🌱				✓

General Capabilities	Module 1 Discovering Community	Module 2 Me to We	Module 3 Community Matters	Module 4 Giving Back
Critical and creative thinking 🧠	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ethical understanding 🏛️	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information & communication technology capability 📱				
Intercultural understanding 🌐	✓	✓		
Literacy 📖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Numeracy 📊				
Personal and social capability 🧑	✓	✓	✓	✓

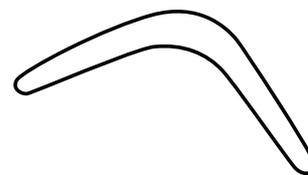
NESA Identified Areas	Module 1 Discovering Community	Module 2 Me to We	Module 3 Community Matters	Module 4 Giving Back
Civics and citizenship 🗳️	✓	✓	✓	✓
Difference and diversity 🌈	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work and enterprise ⚙️		✓		✓

Learning Areas

English	Module 1 Discovering Community	Module 2 Me to We	Module 3 Community Matters	Module 4 Giving Back
EN3-1A Communicates effectively for a variety of audiences and purposes using increasingly challenging topics, ideas, issues and language forms and features	✓		✓	✓
EN3-2A Composes, edits and presents well-structured and coherent texts	✓	✓	✓	✓
EN3-3A Uses an integrated range of skills, strategies and knowledge to read, view and comprehend a wide range of texts in different media and technologies	✓	✓		✓
EN3-6B Uses knowledge of sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary to respond to and compose clear and cohesive texts in different media and technologies		✓	✓	✓
EN3-7C Thinks imaginatively, creatively, interpretively and critically about information and ideas and identifies connections between texts when responding to and composing texts		✓	✓	

NSW

Stage 3 Curriculum Mapping



Geography	Module 1 Discovering Community	Module 2 Me to We	Module 3 Community Matters	Module 4 Giving Back
GE3-1 Describes the diverse features and characteristics of places and environments	✓			
GE3-2 Explains interactions and connections between people, places and environments	✓	✓		
GE3-4 <u>Acquires</u> , processes and communicates geographical information using geographical tools for inquiry		✓	✓	✓

History	Discovering Community		Community Matters	
HT3-3 Identifies change and continuity and describes the causes and effects of change on Australian society	✓		✓	
HT3-5 Applies a variety of skills of historical inquiry and communication	✓			✓

Creative Arts	Module 1 Discovering Community	Module 2 Me to We	Module 3 Community Matters	Module 4 Giving Back
VAS3.1 Investigates subject matter in an attempt to represent likenesses of things in the world	✓			
VAS3.2 Makes artworks for different audiences assembling materials in a variety of ways		✓		✓

PDHPE	Module 1 Discovering Community	Module 2 Me to We	Module 3 Community Matters	Module 4 Giving Back
PD3-3 Evaluates the impact of empathy, inclusion and respect on themselves and others	✓	✓	✓	✓
PD3-2 Investigates information, community resources and strategies to demonstrate resilience and seek help for themselves and others		✓		✓
PD3-9 Applies and adapts self-management skills to respond to personal and group situations		✓	✓	✓
PD3-10 Selects and uses interpersonal skills to interact respectfully with others to promote inclusion and build connections	✓	✓	✓	✓

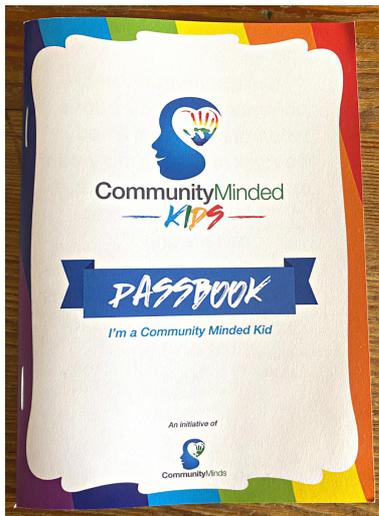
Resources

Provided



CMK Passbook

- 28 page A6 size passbook printed in colour
- Used for Discover and Do's
- Featuring inspirational quotes
One per student



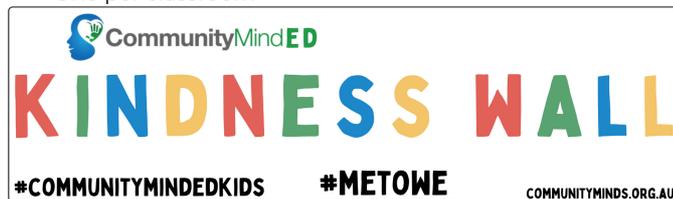
CMK Online

- Access to core learning modules including lesson plans, worksheets, and digital presentations to complement lesson plans and extra activities
- Direct contact to the Community Minds head office



Kindness Wall Banner

- Coloured Kindness banner (25cmh / 84cmw)
- Suggestions and ideas on how to use the banner in class
- One per classroom



Graduation Certificate

- Digital or physical certificate
- A4, colour
- One per student



CMK Library

- Each school will receive a selection of community themed books
- Some books provided may be used in core program learning modules



Community Minded
Kids is for Everyone!

Got a question for us?
[Click Here](#)