

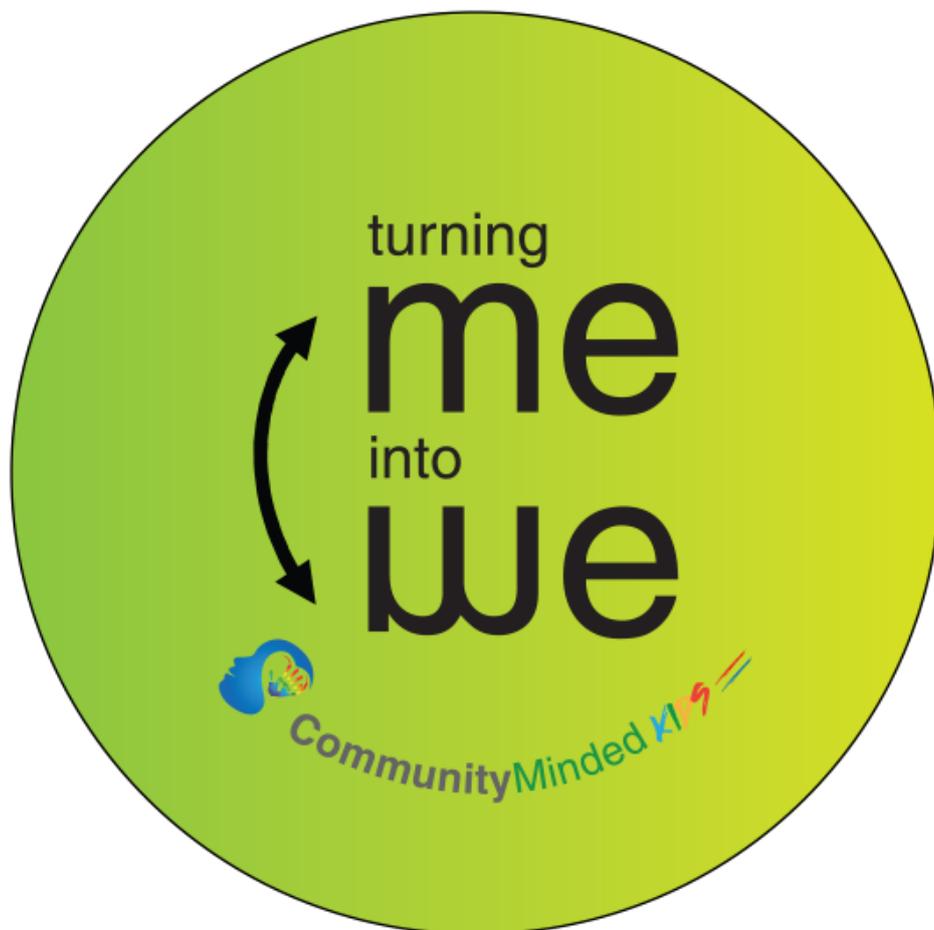


CommunityMinded
— KIDS —

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Community Minded Kids Program Overview

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



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Overview

Community Minded Kids (CMK) is a landmark community building program designed to teach primary school aged children about community and empower them to collaborate in citizen driven community efforts. Developed and provided by the not-for-profit community development organisation Community Minds, the program runs for a full school term, combining in school and out of school community learning, discoveries, and activities. The program provides useful resources and community-focused lesson plans to teachers, covering topics such as social justice, people power, and paying it forward.



“ A key pillar of CMK is its grounding in Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), using a strengths-based approach instead of the traditional needs-based one. By recognising that ‘everyone is a stakeholder’ and ‘everyone has something to contribute,’ the program seeks to identify assets within the community and develop a collective mindset of solidarity over charity.

Using this strengths-based approach and learning about community building, collaborating, and participating in citizen-driven efforts, CMK intends to strengthen collective efficacy and achieve its fundamental purpose of “transforming a ‘me’ generation into a ‘we’ generation”.

Our modules



ALIGN WITH

ACARA National Curriculum Standards



ARE LINKED TO

UN Sustainable Development Goals



ALIGN WITH

the Australian Student Well-being Framework



ARE ACCESSIBLE ONLINE

Access to program portal for online or remote facilitation



01 Discovering Community Module

In this module, students explore the rich assets and distinctive characteristics of their communities. The Discovering Community 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 to 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 students' appreciation and sense of pride of the places where they live, learn and play, enhancing their sense of connection and belonging to their communities.



LEARNING OUTCOMES



STUDENTS WILL

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



02 Me to We Module

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.

It is through cultivation of this thinking and reinforcement of learnings through community “discoveries” and “do’s” that we start to shift children’s thinking from “me” to “we”. In doing so we are cultivating a generation of community minded, conscientious, and caring adults.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

STUDENTS WILL

1. learn different ways to contribute to achieving solidarity in their communities
2. learn how to be active citizens by exploring different ways they can participate in their communities
3. understand the interdependence of people within the community and their role in it
4. understand the importance of belonging and how they can create belonging for others
5. 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

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 dialogues and community 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 each class and student 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/their 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.



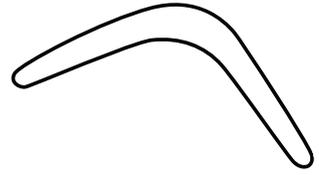
LEARNING OUTCOMES



STUDENTS WILL

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

04 Giving Back Module



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

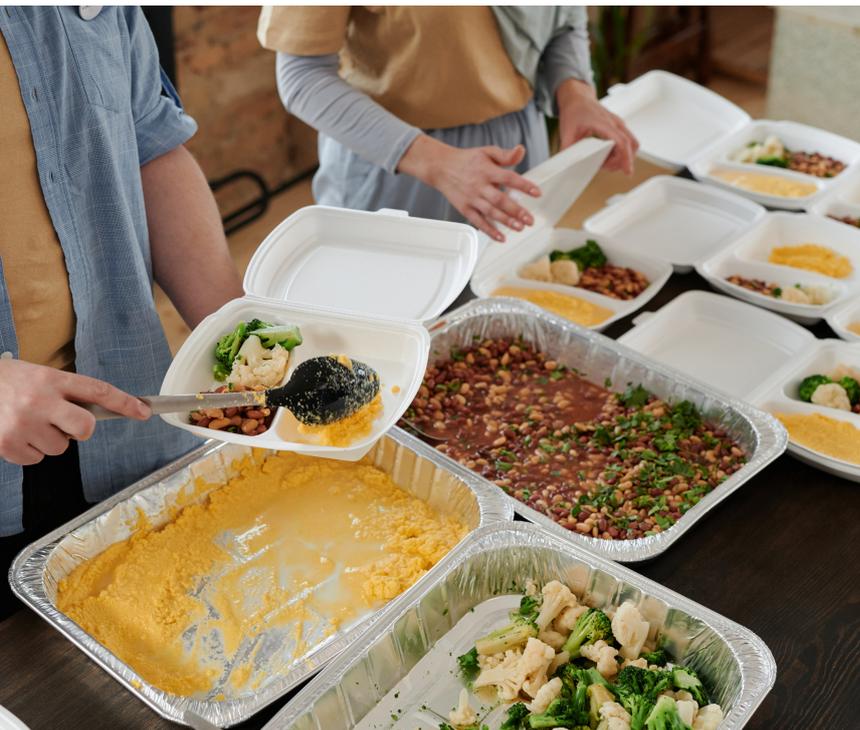
Students will learn the benefits of doing good by acting with empathy and integrity and thinking of ways to contribute to their community by celebrating people who give back.

This module explores simple acts of kindness through the concept of paying it forward by identifying how our actions can 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

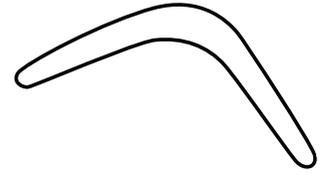


STUDENTS WILL

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

Discover & Do

In Community



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.”



“Students learn how to discover their communities, be in their communities and contribute to their communities.”

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