

Acceptance, Belonging, Connection and Discovery (ABCD) program.

Together for Humanity reports on one of its recent educational school activities: 26 October 2018



Youth Summit 2018: Students and teachers participating in one of the ice breaker games.

In term 3 we embarked on the delivery of our revamped Acceptance, Belonging, Connection and Discovery (ABCD) program. ABCD is specifically targeted to students who are at risk of alienation as a result of experiences of feelings of prejudice because of their religious or ethnic background. The program was led by Taha Allam, our recently appointed Youth Worker/ Education Officer, who is himself of Lebanese Muslim heritage and grew up in Greenacre. Taha was supported in running fortnightly programs by Jewish and Christian facilitators.

Our team worked collaboratively with the school teaching staff to deliver an integrated program through the History curriculum in unit of work delivered by both TFH and the classroom teachers.

Students heard from guest speakers including Raphael, a political refugee from Burundi and Dylan, a young Aboriginal man who has a strong connection to his culture.

The impact of the integrated program can be seen from the students' reflections on what they learned and liked about it.

"The importance of embracing my culture and not being ashamed"

" I learnt how to be more open as I talk about my own life/background since no one really judge me"

"I also liked that multiple religious figures from different religions, for e.g, Rabbi Zalman (Jewish Community), Ahmad Abdo (Muslim Community) participated in the project. People don't seem to "live up to their stereotype"

"I learnt how the people around me come from different parts of the world, and the lengths that people go to migrate from their countries after being torn up from their third world countries. And why they have a better life now compared to then"

"I had learnt new things and had respect for more people from different backgrounds"

"The overall idea of Together for Humanity got me interested in this project. I learnt that by working together will help you accomplish our goals even if you are in two different groups trying to get across the river"

Together for Humanity is an organisation that delivers educational programs in schools aiming to develop children's intercultural understanding. See <http://www.togetherforhumanity.org.au/>