



## School Participation in Anti-Poverty Week

**Getting your school involved in Anti-Poverty Week is a fantastic way for young people and members of the school community like parents, teachers and staff to learn more about how poverty affects us all. Schools are able to host and participate in activities that can raise awareness of poverty issues and come up with practical 'on the ground' solutions.**

### **Looking at local poverty**

You could focus on exploring disadvantage in the children's own community, the causes and consequences of local poverty issues, and the importance of local community action and support. You could encourage the children to think about the ways they can become involved in solutions to these problems. Young people are full of ideas so this would be a great way to come together and brainstorm unique ways to help and educate the community.

### **Get to know a local community or welfare organisation**

As a school, you could explore the work of a local community or welfare organisation and find out how more young people can get involved. This can be an effective and fun way to strengthen community ties and discover practical ways to alleviate poverty locally.

### **Understand socio-economic groups and how the local community fits in**

Exploring different socio-economic groups in Australia and how they vary by region is a fantastic start to understanding how your own school or community fits in. Finding out how this can affect people living in the relevant community is helpful in understanding how disadvantage can be avoided or resolved.

### **Look at global poverty issues**

Poverty exists everywhere in the world so it is important to look at issues relating to global poverty. Your school can focus on poverty issues in other countries, trade, aid, the relationship between countries. This is a great way for young people to learn how their everyday actions, such as shopping choices, might affect people in other countries and contribute to poverty on a global scale.

### **Examine the practical aspects of poverty**

As a school, you could provide resources on examining the causes and effects of some of the more practical aspects of poverty. You could explore how the lack of access to education, diet choices, and low income play a part in the cycle of poverty.

### **Focus on a particular local, national or global poverty cause or issue**

Find out what issues are most important to those in your school and think about the ways in which young people can become involved in and support on an ongoing basis. This can be done through raising money, sponsoring or through a partnership arrangement. Being actively involved like this can raise awareness of certain poverty issues and also enable young people to take initiative and action.



You can check out our links to [Primary Lessons](#) and [Secondary Lessons](#) on Poverty and Inequality in Australia for more helpful ways to talk about poverty.

### Some activities in the past include:

**Anglicare ACT and Southern NSW** in coordination with Canberra teacher, **Kate Halcrow** have kickstarted a unique writing competition called **Pens Against Poverty**. This competition is aimed at giving creative young writers in grades 3-10 a platform to write with genuine purpose and for a real audience about poverty issues.

**All Victorian State Schools** in 2016 participated in **State Schools' Relief** where students and teachers wear either their school uniform or free dress clothes backwards and donate a gold coin in order to support underprivileged Victorian school students.

**Burnie High School** was the venue for **'Produce to the People'** food hub. They provided locally grown produce that might otherwise have gone to waste to people in need in the community.

**Loxton Primary School** in South Australia hosted a **'Swap-a-Snag'** Students were asked to bring a gold coin donation, clothing or something of value for charity in exchange for a sausage sizzle.

**Calvary Christian College** in Queensland held a **'Plain Rice Day'** where students had an opportunity to eat a bowl of plain rice for the day and had classroom discussion and reflection on the causes of poverty and what disadvantages other young people like them may be facing.

**Manangatang College** in Victoria held a **'Uniform Recycle Program'** requesting donations of used uniform items from school families for sale with proceeds going to the **Red Cross**.

**410 schools** across South Australia participated in the **South Australia Primary Schools Festival**. Students were asked to nominate and vote on a song related to a poverty issue. This was a great event where young people across the state could engage with the effects of poverty and express this in a creative way.

In Western Australia, **Kelmscott Senior High School** created a display about **Anti-Poverty Week** in the school library to inform students on what is poverty in Australia and globally and provided resources on what young people can do to help.

The students from **Penola High School** were asked to design and send letters to their Member of Parliament about addressing poverty in their local community. This encouraged students to learn about the ways their voice has the ability to make a difference.

**Kapunda High School** organised a **Poverty Poster Competition** where students designed posters aimed at educating people their age about poverty in the community.