

Maximising the Benefits of University Community Partnerships

Presented By Associate Professor Jude Butcher cfc

Outline of the Presentation

- The importance of university community partnerships
- Examples of university community partnerships
- Principles of university community partnerships
- What are the benefits?
- What are the challenges?
- What are the lessons?

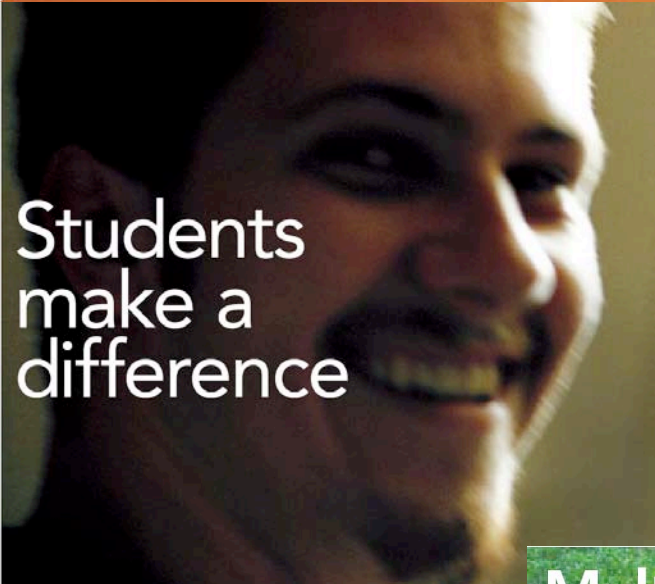
Our Shared Vision at ACU...

...is of a better world,
where social justice is forged through
Catholic social teaching, shared
knowledge and action. Community
engagement enhances our
opportunities to honour our
“commitment to serving the common
good”


The importance of university community partnerships

- ❖ Genuine engagement in an age of exploitation
- ❖ Commitment to the common good and engaged citizenship
- ❖ Development of intellectually, socially and morally responsible leaders and professionals
- ❖ Value based policy options informed by community based research
- ❖ Development of efficacy for community engagement

Examples of university community partnerships



Students
make a
difference



"The night van is always
an eye-opening experience.
It's quite phenomenal."



Multiplying skills
and resources
in East Timor

Examples of university community partnerships

Speaking out against trafficking of women and children

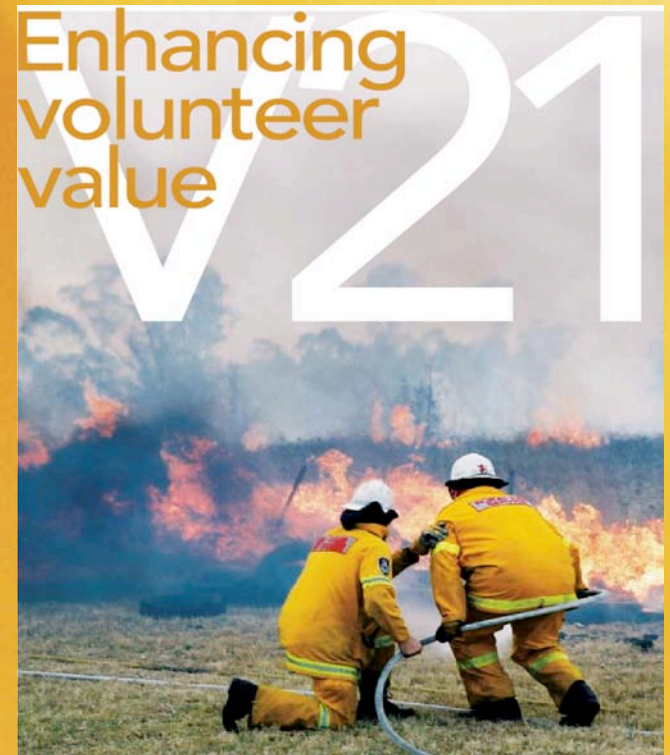
"Up to 1,000 trafficked women are currently working in Australia in legal and illegal brothels and in escort agencies; victims of a pattern of poverty, coercion, abduction."



Weemala



Enhancing volunteer value



Examples of university community partnerships

A Mission Possible

"Their right to learn has been denied by our society in general. There's no support structure for them to get into any learning process."



Working together
for truth and justice



"If you believe in a strong democracy, you have to have a counterpoint to government and business."

Principles of university community partnerships

- ❖ Commitment to mutual respect, integrity and truth
- ❖ Genuine relationships the basis of partnerships
- ❖ Priority given to capacity building
- ❖ Openness to new perspectives, knowledge and approaches
- ❖ Basis in human rights and social justice
- ❖ Central role of inclusive language
- ❖ Critiquing the learning as partners

What are the benefits?

- ❖ Establishment of long term and sustainable relationships
- ❖ Creative interface of the public and academic worlds
- ❖ Formal and informal learnings
- ❖ Development of new languages
- ❖ Development of community, organisational and inter-organisational capacities
- ❖ Development of research capacities

What are the challenges?

- ❖ Knowing the other partners
- ❖ Developing a common language
- ❖ Gaining clearer perspectives on the commonalities and differences
- ❖ Having all partners involved in decision making
- ❖ Effective project management and communication
- ❖ Commitment to critical reflection on practice

What are the Lessons?

- ❖ Value the differences across organisations
- ❖ Negotiate the goals and approaches
- ❖ Be willing to learn and adjust thinking to accommodate differences
- ❖ Ensure all voices are heard
- ❖ Importance of humour
- ❖ Explicit attention to the value bases
- ❖ Invest in effective infrastructure