

Teachers Researching Communities in Priority Schools



Teachers Researching Communities (TRC) in Priority Schools is a joint project between the NSW Department of Education and Training and The University of Sydney, funded by the Priority Schools Programs (PSP) and the Aboriginal and Training Directorate (AETD).

Priority Schools Programs (PSP) support communities in the improvement of the learning outcomes of students in government schools with high densities of students from low socio-economic status backgrounds.

The challenge for Priority School communities is to develop robust, dynamic and locally-negotiated partnerships between the home, school and community as a key strategy in improving the educational outcomes of socio-economically disadvantaged students and their communities.

What is the aim of the project?

The aim of TRC is to develop, evaluate, and refine a set of practical strategies that teachers in Priority Schools can use to conduct systematic research in the communities to better serve the needs of

teachers, students, parents and school leaders. Resources will be developed, including a Community Inquiry Template as a result of this research.

The TRC project will build on research that continues to demonstrate the relationship between strong home, school and partnerships and improved student learning outcomes especially in low socio-economic status contexts.

The term 'community' within the study encompasses students' lived contexts outside of the school. Those contexts generally comprise parents, community elders, local business and community centres.

Who will be involved?

A research team led by Professor Peter Freebody from The University of Sydney

and officers from Priority Schools Programs will lead the research. Critical to the TRC project is the involvement of the PSP partnership officers working in the field, who, in conjunction with the PSP consultants and school teachers, have the opportunity to engage with the project to provide long term results.

Twelve Priority School communities will be identified across four regions with teams of one executive and two teachers per school taking part in the research from 2009 to 2010.

The project will incorporate a range of communication strategies including school visits, videoconferencing and online forums.

Read more information
at www.psp.nsw.edu.au