

## ENGAGING PARENTS AND FAMILIES FROM DIVERSE CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS

A positive and productive partnership between school and parents is crucial to improving wellbeing and learning outcomes in students! Forming and nurturing these partnerships can often be challenging, especially when trying to engage with parents and families from diverse cultural and faith backgrounds.

Our teacher Professional Development (PD) examines this challenge, presenting insights and strategies that schools can use to improve their engagement with families from diverse backgrounds. We use case studies, research and our experience from working with schools across Australia.

This diversity and family engagement PD is a collaboration between the Jewish Christian Muslim Association (JCMA) in Victoria, Together for Humanity (TFH) and the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO).

### What Do We Offer?

A 1.5 hour session, which can be extended to 2 or 3 hours. Longer sessions will incorporate extra activities and applications relevant to your school. Topics include:

#### 1. Culture And Faith

We explore surface and deep level culture, differing worldviews, faith and other drivers that influence people's attitudes towards education.

#### 2. Families And Generational Issues

In examining various understanding of family, we discuss cross-cultural and generational dimensions, as well as exploring migrant/refugee experiences.

#### 3. Classroom And School Strategies

We present the principles which support improved parent and family engagement. Reflection and discussion on how these principles can be applied to your school context are an integral aspect of the PD.

#### 4. Case Studies

We explore how several schools have responded to challenges they are experiencing in engaging parents, especially from diverse cultural backgrounds – successes, surprises and lessons learned.



### Links To Teacher PD

Our PD has been created by teachers and is linked to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

### Presenters

Our presenters all have rich backgrounds in education, cross-cultural and inter-faith fields. We are experienced and qualified educators who have facilitated student, teacher and adult programs in schools and community groups.

### Who Will Benefit From This PD?

Our PD is suitable for teachers and school leadership teams and incorporates practical ideas that proved successful in diverse settings. It is designed to address the needs of teachers in any school context or demographic, from primary to secondary, regional, metropolitan, and across both government and independent school sectors.

### Cost

Under a current Commonwealth Government grant program, we are able to offer this teacher PD to a number of schools free of charge.\*

### Further Information

Please visit our website to learn more about the work of JCMA and Teacher PD <http://jcma.org.au/teacher-professional-learning/>

### What Others Have To Say

*'This PD highlighted to me, the importance of building relationships with parents of diverse cultural backgrounds.'*  
High School teacher, Geelong

### Contact

For more information or to book, please contact:

#### JCMA's Education team at

[info@jcma.org.au](mailto:info@jcma.org.au), or speak with Ginette Everest our Executive Officer on 0400 211 221.

#### Together For Humanity's Education team at

[education@togetherforhumanity.org.au](mailto:education@togetherforhumanity.org.au) or speak with Mark van Ommen, TFH's Education Director in NSW on 0402 634 130.

\* This offer is available until December 31, 2021

