



# MacKillop College

## Policy: Social Justice and Mission

### Introduction

At MacKillop College education about and engagement with the work of social justice is an important aspect of teaching and learning. All Christians are baptised into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit, and through this all are called to work for the coming of God's kingdom (Matthew 25:34 - 40). The imperative of this kingdom's rule of love, one that Mary MacKillop followed, is that Christians never see a need without trying to do something about it.

Social justice initiatives include raising awareness and taking action both through fund-raising and through active participation in initiatives that contribute to a more just world.

### Principles

MacKillop College is committed to the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

These are:

- *Human Dignity:* All people are created in the image and likeness of God and therefore have an inherent dignity
- *Community and the Common Good:* 'We are one Body: when one suffers, we all suffer.' (St Paul 1 Corinthians 12:26)
- *Rights and Responsibility:* All people have a fundamental right to life, shelter, health care, education and employment. All people have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives
- *Preferential Option for the Poor:* The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. We are called to look at decisions in terms of how they affect the poor
- *Solidarity:* We are one human family. We are called to work for global justice
- *Stewardship of the Earth's Resources:* The goods of the Earth are gifts from God. We are called to care for these as stewards and trustees, not consumers and users (Genesis 1:26)

## **Objectives**

MacKillop College is committed to:

- ensuring all members of the MacKillop community learn about the main themes of Catholic Social Teaching
- empowering members of the MacKillop community to work in a variety of ways to meet the needs of others
- supporting all fund-raising within the College with educative strategies that raise awareness of social justice
- supporting community organisations which are usually local, national and international Catholic organisations whose work contributes to a more just world
- placing priority on assisting Catholic organisations however, will support organisations when they contribute to a more just world and there is no equivalent Catholic organisation

## **Implementation**

### **i) Principal commitment**

The principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice

### **ii) Staff commitment**

The staff is responsible for:

- supporting the work of social justice through promotion of initiatives and the delivery of teaching and learning programs

*This policy works in conjunction with the following policies, procedures and guidelines*

- MacKillop Fundraising Policy
- Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne 2011, *Social actions guidelines for action and fundraising in schools and parishes*, CVEN, Melbourne, accessed 3 August 2017, <<http://www.cam.org.au/Portals/0/Documents/Social-Justice-Guidelines-brochure.pdf>>.

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