



Partnering with Tasmanian teachers and students to create inclusive and respectful schools.

RACISM



LET'S SAY NO!
AND LET SEXISM GO!

Impact and reach

Research shows that there is a strong connection between school climate, student wellbeing and academic outcomes. When students feel unsafe, marginalised or not included at school, they are less likely to attend, more likely to display disruptive behaviours, and their educational attainment is lowered.

Let's Get Together aims to improve school climate and student wellbeing. Since its inception in 2014, it has reached over 3000 students from years 5-9, in 13 schools across Southern Tasmania.

Independent program evaluator, Dr Sarah Stewart, says, "It's been impressive seeing and hearing so many students across so many schools making positive changes to school culture, speaking up about discrimination accessing and acting on their student voice".

An example of the program's impact is Cosgrove High School, where *Let's Get Together* has been running for five years and has made a significant contribution to the school's improvement. Findings from the 2021 Evaluation Report include:

- 90%** of students presented final projects that reflected core concerns of the program
- 86%** of students said they would like to continue to make their school a more inclusive place.

School responses

"When we were in Grade 7 this school was pretty violent...these days, well I can't remember the last time there was a fight!"

Cosgrove High School student, 2021

"The Let's Get Together program has been an important contributor to our school's improvement over the past few years. Across various indicators our students outperform the State averages, and this program has contributed to above average maintenance of student engagement across years 7-8. The Let's Get Together program is a fantastic program to support schools to harness student voice and agency, a key component of a connected, aspirational and respectful community of learners!"

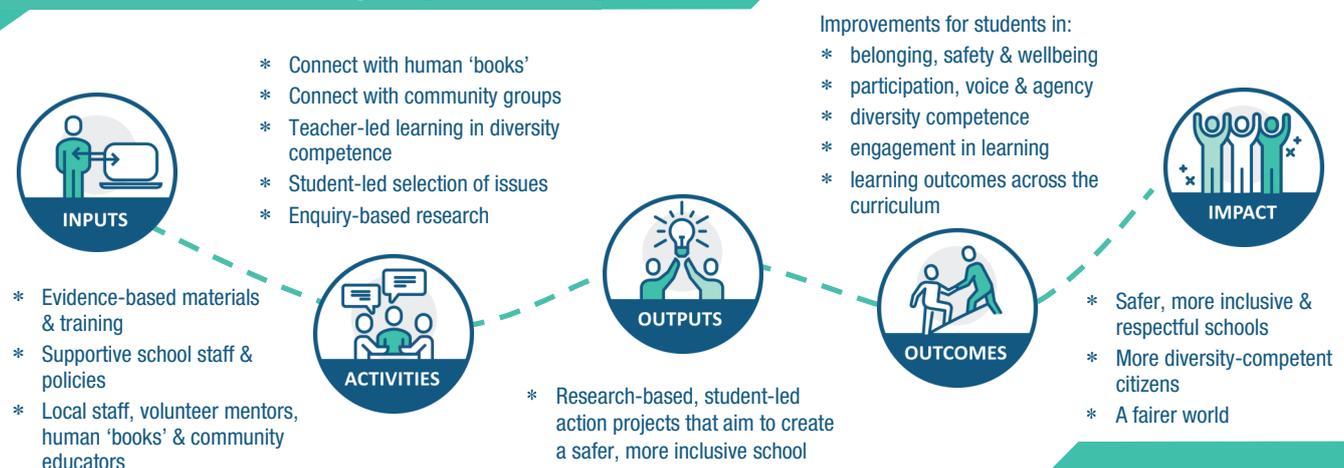
David Bryant, Cosgrove High School Assistant Principal, 2018-2021

How the program works

Let's Get Together was developed in Tasmania and is based on international best practice in diversity education. The program is informed by several key resources, and builds on A Fairer World's 37 years of experience in partnering with Tasmanian schools to deliver innovative social justice education programs.

Let's Get Together aims to develop diversity competence in students by exposing them to a range of learning experiences to develop their knowledge (of stereotypes and discrimination), skills (in collaboration and taking upstander action), and dispositions (to value diversity and behave responsibly). Core principles embedded in the program include transformative learning about real world issues, student-led research with a solutions-focus, and enabling student voice and agency.

School change journey



Why the program works

While the long-term impact of any educational program is dependent on a range of variables, research has shown that effective programs for developing respectful relationships among young people are characterised by seven key features. When implemented with fidelity, the *Let's Get Together* program demonstrates these characteristics by:

1. Addressing the causes of discrimination and other excluding behaviours.
2. Encouraging a whole-of-school approach that engages all aspects of school culture - leaders, policies, pedagogy, support staff, parents and the local community.
3. Delivering professional learning and ongoing local mentoring, support and resources.
4. Providing age-appropriate program materials with a participatory design that engages students in real world problem-solving.
5. Emphasising the need for sustainable change over the long-term.
6. Involving local community organisations and people with lived experience.
7. Independent evaluation that provides comprehensive reports for continuous improvement.