PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITY 3

Making inclusion visible

About this activity
This activity is designed to build capacity to develop strategies for promoting inclusion in your school and raise awareness of a range of effective methods to communicate your school’s commitment to and practice of inclusion.

INSTRUCTIONS
As a group watch the film 'We Can' developed by Waratah Special Developmental School and featured on the school homepage (6.4 mins): https://vimeo.com/284548500

Depending on the time available and the size of your group you may want to break into smaller groups to answer the following questions and then report back to the larger group.

An activity leader can facilitate a discussion after the film (see notes to assist facilitator).
Notes to assist the activity leader facilitate this discussion

1. WHAT ARE THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS SCHOOL’S COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION IS COMMUNICATED IN THIS VIDEO?

- representation of a diverse cohort of students and staff
- use of written ‘speech bubble’ questions to interview families and staff
- use of props to make the film title
- credits acknowledging participation and contribution of students not able to be shown on film

2. WHAT RANGE OF DIVERSITY IS REPRESENTED BY THE FILM PARTICIPANTS?

- age
- gender
- cultural/ethnic diversity
- role (student, staff, family member)
- ability
- verbal / non-verbal

3. HOW DOES THE FILM COMMUNICATE THE SCHOOL’S STRENGTH-BASED APPROACH TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (I.E. A STRENGTH BASED RATHER THAN DEFICIT APPROACH)?

- students are shown as creators of their own story (cuts to ‘behind the scenes’ shots)
- interviews that focus on benefits to staff of working in this school
- staff interviews celebrating student achievements
- music that conveys the positive emotional ‘tone’ of the story

4. THINKING ABOUT THE DIVERSITY IN YOUR SCHOOL, WHAT STRATEGIES COULD YOU ADOPT TO MAKE A FILM THAT SHOWS YOUR COMMITMENT TO AND PRACTICE OF INCLUSION?

5. WHAT OTHER COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES COULD YOU ADOPT TO COMMUNICATE YOUR PRACTICE OF INCLUSION IN YOUR SCHOOL?

- visual representations of diversity
- translation of parent communications
- make audio files available in other languages
- display rainbow flag, Koorie flag or other indicators of support and celebration of diversity.

We acknowledge the creators of the film We Can and thank them for their permission for us to use it to strengthen inclusive practice in Victorian Schools.

The Film Creators are: Action Crew, Youth Foundation and Waratah Special Development School. Action Crew and Youth Foundation specialise in creating work which is youth-led, ensuring that marginalised and diverse voices are heard.

To find out more about their work and methodologies contact them through:

www.actioncrew.net (email: actioncrew.video@gmail.com)

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