Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

**TOPIC 3.1: HOW DOES RELIGION IMPACT ON EDUCATION, HEALTH, WELFARE**

- **Lesson 3.1.1** Catholic Church
- **Lesson 3.1.2** Aid and Development
- **Lesson 3.1.3** Diversity through adversity

**TOPIC 3.2: DOES RELIGION INFLUENCE CULTURAL VALUES AND DEBATE?**

- **Lesson 3.2.1** Reconciliation
- **Lesson 3.2.2** Moral Dilemmas and Law
- **Lesson 3.2.3** Scandals and Skeletons

**TOPIC 3.3: AUSTRALIA TOMORROW**

- **Lesson 3.3.1** Emerging spirituality
- **Lesson 3.3.2** Living sustainably
- **Lesson 3.3.3** Living in the Asia/Pacific
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.1: How does Religion impact on education, health, welfare?

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<th>Contribution of the Catholic church</th>
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<td>In this lesson students will investigate the importance of the Catholic church to the areas of education, health and welfare in Australia.</td>
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Teachers: Before you start!

- If you plan to use the suggested assessment item, firstly review the item and develop a process for its implementation. Encourage students to reflect on material and understandings gained throughout this unit to inform their completion of the assessment task.

For students to investigate the contribution of the Catholic church in Australia select from the following learning activities:

**Students:**

- investigate the various sectors of the Catholic Church in a community.
  - Locate, using a phone book or the internet, Catholic organisations such as schools, nursing homes, hospitals, counselling services, migrant, refugee and welfare services in the Brisbane Archdiocese.
  - choose a Catholic organisation from the following list to investigate further: St Vincent de Paul Society, Centacare, Mater Hospitals, Brisbane Catholic Education. Record the following information in a Frayer Concept Chart:
    - the origins of the organisation
    - the services provided by the organisation
    - the number of people serviced by the organisation each year
    - the demographic catered for by the organisation: age, gender, religion and cultural background.
- Write a statement expressing an opinion about the importance of the Catholic organisation to the community. Share it with a partner.
- Complete a futures wheel after discussing the consequences of the following hypothetical event as a class: The Catholic Church is bankrupt. Keep in mind that the Catholic Church is the largest non-government agency providing these services in Australia.
- Discuss the assessment for the unit.
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.1: How does Religion impact on education, health, welfare?

Lesson 3.1.2 Aid and Development

In this lesson students will examine the contributions of diverse religious groups to Aid and Development in Australia and the Pacific.

Teachers: Before you start!

- Familiarise yourself with the Pro Bono Australia website.

For students to examine the contributions of diverse religious groups select from the following learning activities.

Students:

- Explore the not for profit organisations website Pro Bono Australia, noting the diversity of religions that are represented.
  - Explore closely the O.S. Aid and Development list. Create a table with two columns and list the organisations affiliated with a religion in one column and organisations not affiliated with religion in the other column. Access the websites of each organisation where provided.
  - Paste the words of the mission or vision statements of a religious organisation and a non-religious organisation associated with O.S. Aid and Development into Wordle. Discuss the values underpinning the mission of both organisations. Identify points of commonality and points of distinction.

- Choose one of the following organisations to investigate: Caritas Australia, Muslim Aid Australia, Mercy Works Inc, Anglican Board of Mission, or Uniting World. Complete a 5Ws+H retrieval chart to deepen your understandings of the operations of the chosen organisation.
  - Use a FALL strategy to formulate a conclusion about the contribution of religious groups to aid and development in Australia, Australia’s pacific neighbours and Australia’s reputation as a global citizen. A quality conclusion will assist with the assessment task.
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.1: How does Religion impact on education, health, welfare?

Lesson 3.1.3 Diversity through adversity

In this lesson students will analyse the responses of various religious groups to crises and times of adversity.

Teachers: Before you start!

- Organise a guest speaker from St Vincent de Paul or arrange for students to visit a local Vinnies store.

For students to analyse the responses and contribution of diverse religious groups in times of adversity, select from the following activities:

Students:

- explore the national council of churches website and locate and read an article that describes how the churches support victims of natural and human caused disasters, for example, flood, cyclone, fire.
  - With a partner, discuss the following: Describe the ways that churches are able to help in times of crisis. What advantages do churches have over governments when it comes to supplying assistance in times of crisis?
- with teacher support, make contact with a local St Vincent de Paul shop and organise an interview or guest speaker appearance from a St Vincent de Paul volunteer to explore the contribution of a local church organisation to a community in times of adversity.
  - Construct relevant interview questions to find out how the organisation works, how they assist in times of crisis and how volunteers respond.
  - Reflect on your own contribution to your community in the light of the call for Christians to assist the disadvantaged in society.
- draw conclusions about the value of the contribution of the diverse religious groups to Australian communities in times of adversity.
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.2: Does Religion influence cultural values and debate?

Lesson 3.2.1. Reconciliation and other issues of justice

In this lesson students will explore a Catholic understanding of, and actions for, reconciliation in Australia and the importance of Indigenous reconciliation for the future of Australia.

Teachers: Before you start!

- Familiarise yourself with the websites and articles referred to in the lesson.
- Register for Exploratree, a free online library of thinking guides.

For students to investigate the contribution of religious diversity to improved cultural understandings select from the following activities:

Students:

- view the YouTube clip about the process of reconciliation with Australian Indigenous people, and participate in a class discussion to clarify understandings regarding the importance of reconciliation in Australia.
  - Locate the article on the Catholic teachings about reconciliation. As a class, read the introduction and construct a whole class Twitter-style response (limiting the response to 150 characters only). This response should synthesise the main ideas in the introduction. Divide the class into seven groups and allocate each of the seven groups one section of the article. Students read the article and construct a group Tweet of the main ideas within their allocated section. Each group shares their Tweet and the final versions of the Tweets are published for future reference.
  - Investigate the differing perspectives on the importance of reconciliation with Indigenous Australians for the future of Australia. Record your findings using the Exploratree from a different perspective graphic organiser.

- explore the National Council of Churches website
  - Click on Departments, NATSIEC, Advocacy, and Issues for an example of how the Council tries to influence Government policies on issues of justice.
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.2: Does Religion influence cultural values and debate?

Lesson 3.2.2
Moral Dilemmas and Law

In this lesson students will investigate the involvement of religion in various moral issues in Australia.

Teachers: Before you start!

- Listen to the interview between Julia Gillard and the Australian Christian Lobby Group.

For students to investigate the involvement of religious groups in various moral issues in Australia select from the following activities:

- listen to the interview between the Australian Christian Lobby group and Prime Minister Julia Gillard.
  - List ways in which the Prime Minister acknowledges the contribution of the churches to Australian society.
- research one issue that invites legal and social debate from the list that follows: euthanasia, abortion, use of human embryos for research.
  - Use a retrieval chart to record your research using the following headings: definition of the issue, current state government law, positions of different faith traditions in relation to the issue, for example Christian, Buddhist, Islam, other points of interest.
  - Identify ways different faith traditions inform the moral positions on contemporary issues in Australia.
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.2: Does Religion influence cultural values and debate?

Lesson 3.2.3 Scandals and skeletons

In this lesson students will examine some of the controversial issues associated with religion in Australia.

Teachers: Before you start!

- Familiarise yourself with the articles and websites listed in Useful Resources.
- Register for Exploratree and familiarise yourself with the Traffic Light tool.

For students to examine some of the controversial issues associated with religion in Australia and to propose a preferred future complete the following activity:

Students:

- research one issue that invites public debate in Australia and investigate the various teachings of a particular religion, for example, Muslim, Catholic/Christian, Buddhist or Jewish, regarding that issue: excessive wealth, participation in war, treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, racism, abuse, homosexuality, homelessness, lower life expectancy for Indigenous Australians. Access the Sofia website to gain further understandings about diverse church and media positions on the issue. See also Useful Resources for religious teachings.
  - Record information using a retrieval chart with the following headings: Description of the issue, Religious teaching regarding the issue, Problems or Contradictions.
  - Identify the modes of communication available to Australians to contribute to public debate.
  - Discuss the value of public debate in order to bring about change.
  - Use the Traffic Light strategy to propose ways forward to advance Australia fair. Within the strategy substitute the headings: Red light: As a leader within the religious tradition, if you could make anything stop, what would it be? Why? Yellow light: As a leader within the religious tradition, if you could get anything ready, what would it be? Why? Green light: As a leader within the religious tradition, if you could make anything go forward to advance Australia fair, what would it be? Why?
  - Share gained understandings with the class.
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.3: Australia Tomorrow?

Lesson 3.3.1: Emerging Spirituality
In this lesson students will consider the future of spirituality and religion in Australia.

Teachers: Before you start!
- Preview the You Tube clips of Solid Rock by Goanna.

For students to consider the emerging spirituality of Australians select from the following activities:

Students:
- view either or both of the You Tube clips of Solid Rock original and cover.
- consider the following statement: the re-enchantment of Australian spirituality will come when we listen to the testimony of rock, the wisdom of the desert, the eternal mind of a timeless country. (David Tacey)
  Discuss how traditional faiths could be enriched by engaging with these ideas.
- use evidence gathered throughout the unit to complete the following SWOT chart:

  Strengths  Weaknesses
  
  Opportunities:  Threats

  Australia acknowledging itself as a spiritual/religious country.

  • predict the future nature of religion and spirituality in Australia. Discuss as a class.
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.3: Australia Tomorrow?

Lesson 3.3.2: Living Sustainably

In this lesson students will examine the contribution of churches towards sustainable living in Australia.

Teachers: Before you start!

- Organise a meditation, yoga or prayer session for students.

For students to investigate the contribution of churches towards sustainable living in Australia select from the following learning activities:

Students:

- explore the Catholic Earthcare site or the Brisbane Catholic Education site Creation we care to identify the underpinning church teachings about stewardship of the earth.
  - Critique the Ecological principles outlined on the Catholic Earthcare site by agreeing or disagreeing with the statements. Compare with a partner. Alternatively cut and paste into Wordle to determine the emphasis.
  - Answer the following question to assist with the assessment item: How can Catholic social teaching about the environment advance the cause of sustainable living in Australia?
- participate in a class meditation, prayer or yoga practice.
  - Reflect on the contribution of such practices in helping individuals sustain their health in times of crisis and stress.
Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 3: The Influence of Religious Diversity in Australia

Topic 3.3: Australia Tomorrow?

Lesson 3.3.3 Living in the Asia Pacific

In this lesson students will investigate the contribution religion makes to meeting Australia’s responsibilities in the Asia Pacific region.

Teachers: Before you start!

• Familiarise yourself with the website content referred to in the lesson.

For students to investigate the contribution of religion to Australia’s responsibilities in the Asia Pacific region, select from the following activities:

• Consider the following statement taken from the Human Rights Law Resource Centre.

  On 3 May 2010, the Australian Parliament’s Human Rights Sub-Committee identified that the ‘Asia-Pacific is a diverse and complex region with a mosaic of human rights challenges’ and found that there is a ‘clear need to enhance mechanisms to protect human rights and to monitor and redress human rights violations’. The Committee further found that, while Australia has a ‘significant role to play’ in promoting and protecting human rights in the region, Australia must also be ‘sensitive and cooperative in its approach and action on human rights matters’ and take its lead from organisations already established in the region.

  - Review the current issues of human rights violations in the Asia Pacific region
  - Read the story of the multiple human rights violations in Burma.
  - Research the work of one of the religious organisations in parts of the pacific.
    o Marist Thailand
    o Edmund Rice Pacific Calling Partnership
    o Palms Australia

• Investigate the Catholic Social Teaching of subsidiarity. Use this information to synthesise a conclusion regarding the contribution that religious organisations can offer to the Australian government with regard to human rights violations in the Asia Pacific region.
USEFUL RESOURCES

Exploratree is a free online library of thinking guides including *Futures wheel*. This tool assists the learner to think through the consequences and knock-on effects of a particular event. Registration is required with an email address if the work needs to be saved.

**Wordle** is an online tool that makes word clouds out of text. It does not require registration. It is very useful for identifying which words occur most frequently in a given text and therefore assists in the identification of what the underlying values are. The Wordles can be printed but not saved except to the public gallery. Wordle is particularly useful for students who have difficulty reading large amounts of text.


**Fall Strategy**: The FALL Strategy is an extension of the *Think-Pair-Share Strategy*. Learning Team members privately Formulate a response; Articulate their ideas to the group; Listen in turn to other responses and Lengthen the thinking during the subsequent discussion by systematically building upon and elaborating the ideas of others.


Exploratree is a free online library of thinking guides including *From a different angle*. This digital tool allows the learner to examine a topic through a variety of different subject lenses to understand how knowledge changes, depending on the perspective from which it is viewed.
USEFUL RESOURCES

Euthanasia: Islamic view, Buddhist view, general Christian and Catholic views

Abortion: Islamic view, Buddhist view, Catholic and Anglican views

Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Islamic view, Catholic view

Religious teachings on issues of Australian public debate:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/islamethics/war.shtml

http://www.abc.net.au/religion/default.htm?section=home&topic1=home


http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/positionpapers/2003_2_25the_church_speaks_on_war_and_peace.html

Exploratree is a free online library of thinking guides including Traffic Light. The headings can be changed on the template so the learner can think about a topic from someone else’s perspective.
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Cathy Whannell, 2007

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BOOKS
