

ANTI-POVERTY 12 – 18 October 2008 WEEK

An Invitation to Schools

What is Anti-Poverty Week?

Anti-Poverty Week begins this year on Sunday 12 October and finishes on Saturday 20 October. As usual it includes International Anti-Poverty Day, which has been designated by the UN as 17 October.

Anti-Poverty Week focuses on poverty around the world, not just in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries like Australia. Its main aims are to:

- strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship; and
- encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems.

The week is coordinated by major organizations around Australia that work to reduce poverty and hardship. The National Chair is Professor Julian Disney of the University of New South Wales, and there are also chairs in each State and Territory.

What can Schools do for Anti-Poverty Week?

Education and poverty is a major theme of Anti-Poverty Week. We encourage schools throughout Australia to do something during the week, however small it may be. There is no need to seek approval from the organisers of the week.

Some ideas include:

- a special curriculum focus or project on poverty-related issues
- an Anti-Poverty Week edition of your school newsletter
- a fundraiser event, with proceeds going to a local welfare organisation
- posters or art work on poverty-related themes or a library display
- a visit to or by a local welfare organisation
- something practical to help students experiencing disadvantage at your school or schools in other communities

For more ideas, see the Schools page and the Joining In page at www.antipovertyweek.org.au.

What Support can Anti-Poverty Week provide?

Anti-Poverty Week can support your activity by listing it in the Activities page of our website, providing the Anti-Poverty Week poster and flyers to help promote it.

Electronic resources, including class materials, fact sheets and website links, are available on our website, see the Resources page and the Schools page at www.antipovertyweek.org.au.

To let us know your plans or obtain further information:

Contact us at apw@antipovertyweek.org.au or 1-300-797-290 or visit www.antipovertyweek.org.au.