MANAGING FAITH/WORLD VIEWS ENGAGEMENT IN ESL/EAL CLASSROOM

A KEY ISSUE FOR AUSTRALIA'S SOCIAL COHESION?

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PHD

Session Plan

- Background
- Statistics
- Why religion & social cohesion now
- Buzz groups x2
- Groups exploring class situations
- Patterns & examples of engagement faiths & non-faith engagement
- Federal Policy, PD & resources -F/WV complex
- Practical steps now

Researchers background

Family

Richmond

Overseas

AMES

Research?

Religions for Peace Australia

Now write down

Current number in Australia

Christians

- Muslims
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- No religious

Religious shifts since 1978

Why engage *social cohesion

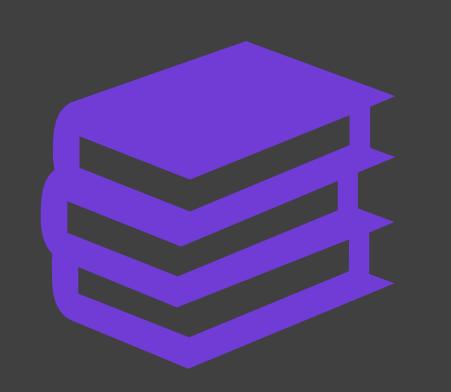
- Change in Australia's religious mix
 - more religious
 - more secular
- Social media connections the world, Sydney
- Rise of Extreme right non & religious
- Meaning & environmental changes

Buzz groups: 2 mins each

What was your first experience of someone of another faith/world views (positive/negative)

Buzz groups: 2 mins each

How did/do you learn about other faiths/world views?



CLASS SITUATIONS I/YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED (10 MINS)

Observed classroom patterns toward the 'other'

Some come from multicultural countries-India, Ethiopia- easier)

Others persecuted Burmese, Falun Gong, (s)

Transfer of fear or isolation to Australia

Others religion discourages PRC/Burmese (s)

Others godless to be concerted (s)

Shifters (s)

Theology/
view of the

other

Federal Policy -resources/information

pre arrival, citizenship & learning environment

!!COMPLEX

help migration, faiths/ multifaith/WV academics

adult educators

National Curriculum experts

RfPA etc

Education department/school level

• PD -FWV social cohesion area- more sensitive than sex education

Open up discussion in the staffroom

*inclusivists BUT exclusivists? (s)

*Multifaith/UN calendar in the staffroom

ESL/EAL curriculum development/resources

Create a resources bank- on F/WV

Hindu/Buddhist/Muslim/etc and range within

PRC festivals

World views- humanist/environmentalist etc

Dealing with Issues

Code of Conduct

Staff F/WV literacyanticipate

Quickly

Australia interreligious differences a shock for some

"... you celebrate Christmas with drinking!

The meaning of Christmas for me was because Jesus was born that day born for my salvation!"

(an Evangelical Ethiopian)

"... don't know anything about the Arabic language. In the future, how can they take [learn] their religion?"

(A Shi'ite was somewhat angry about Lebanese Australians he met)

Asian Australians for some a surprise

"Before I came here ... I was not expecting Asian people at the airport ... Oh! this is an Asian country"

(Most refugees were surprised at finding Asians)

"I was surprised when I saw in a Chinese shop that they put oranges and bananas and something like a God!

....Bible say if you believe something not alive, that's a sin!!"

(an Ethiopian Evangelical)

Australian agnostics and secularists for some a surprise

I think ... some of the people who feel that whatever I need, I can make it for myself. It is not God who can do anything for me, and this kind of feeling is from people who [are] filled up with the desire of the devil. (a Sudanese Anglo-Catholic)

A shock- **An agnostic English teacher** (a Somali)

Greatly surprised **by agnosticism in his human service** workplace (a Sudanese Christian)