COMMUNITY & FAMILY STUDIES

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

"In Australia the issue of homelessness is becoming more of a problem. Is their sufficient community support?
Is homelessness more prevalent in metropolitan areas of Australia?"

PART (A) - THE PRODUCT PLAN

Hypothesis/ Question :

"In Australia the issue of homelessness is becoming more of a problem. Is their sufficient community support? Is homelessness more prevalent in metropolitan areas of Australia?"

The topic chosen to research is the 'Homeless', this topic was chosen because it is interesting and surprising how children, young teenagers, adults and the elderly that struggle in this situation and somehow find a way to survive.

Homelessness is a difficult term to define as people disagree on who to include as homeless. Homeless is defined as "someone without a conventional home and who lacks most of the economic and social support that a home normally affords." The homeless are often cut off from support of relatives and friends, have few independent resources and often have no immediate means of self support. Basically they have inadequate access to safe and secure housing. There are different degree's of homeless, some live in the street or access crisis refuge accommodation which is temporary etc.
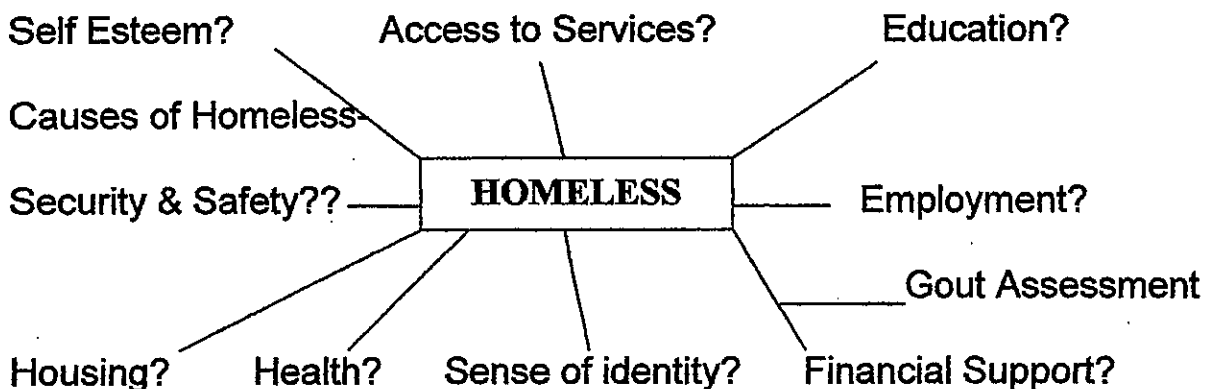
"Homelessness on the increase" is a growing concern in Australia as the statistics are rising. In my Research project I will: identify the main problems and implications for the health of homeless; I will discuss the government funding and support networks available for the homeless; people in our communities can contribute to prevent and put a stop to children, teenagers, adults and the elderly being homeless.

The Focus topic "The Homeless" relates to the selected Course Content Area 'Groups in Context; the homeless' and can also be linked to the option 'Individuals and work; individual and group needs meet through work'. Also the Core; 'Parenting and Caring' relates to some aspects and reasons for homelessness.

A number of research methods will be utilised to both primary and secondary information. It will aim to distribute primary research methods such as surveys, interviews and questionnaires to a variety

of students (different ages) at different schools, parents, teachers and different employees at different support networks for the homeless. The research will also include an observation of the percentages of homeless people in metropolitan areas compared to country regions using secondary research methods (internet; websites such as ABS) other secondary resources such as; articles, video's will be expected to use to provide background information on homless, which can later be applied to the results which have been gained through extensive research.

There are many answers to questions that will be identified in my research focusing on the homless .... Including;

Self Esteem?   Access to Services?   Education?

Causes of Homeless

Security & Safety?? —— HOMELESS —— Employment?

Gout Assessment

Housing?   Health?   Sense of identity?   Financial Support?

Some examples of websites that contain secondary information to assist the research are:

www.homeless.org.au
www.abc.net.au/homeless/
www.chp.org.au/
http://forums.homeless.org.au/
www.melbourne.homeless.org.au/
www.hanover.org.au/
www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/services/homeless.htm
www.wesleymission.org.au/community_services/Homeless_services/?ct_from=n

There will be newspaper articles collected to reflect the effect of homelessness on communtites and general public from the Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney Telegraph and Parkes champion post.

The factual information found for the research topic at the corresponding web sites and from any other secondary sources will help act as a guideline for the research product, providing previous findings and statistics, which can be included in questionnaires and interviews.

For this Research project it is important to address ethical guidelines to ensure integrity of both the data and researcher is followed through. It is necessary to be constantly aware of personal views, and take all precautions to prevent bias in results. In order to follow ethical guidelines, questionnaires, interviews and surveys should be created so that people can answer themselves, without the researchers personal views or opinions being forced onto participants. To achieve 'integrity of data' questions should stay simple, un-influenced way (not embiguous), leading to the participants own personal views, thoughts and opinions being expressed.

To ensure that primary sources handed out are ethical and appropriate, the questions will be worded carefully with consideration and surveys will be proof. By doing this, it ensures that questions will not be offensive to any people, and to ensure that the privacy of any individual has not been breached.

This IRP aims to conduct the main body of my research over eight weeks, then two weeks analysing the data, which I will have gathered, recording my results of the research and then writing my final report.

The following is my timetable outlining my ten-week plan;

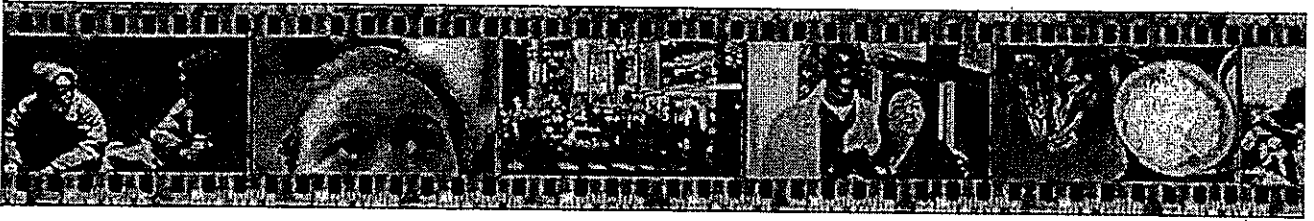| .WEEK.	.*.DETAILS.*.
1	Start Research Product Diary ... Formulate research question & expand.
2	Develop research proposal.
3	Submit research proposal.
4	Investigate secondary sources, record & note relevant data.
5	Develop questionnaire/ survey (pilot) Distribute questionnaire & organise interview.
6	Start literature review section of the report, conduct surveys & interviews
7	Analyse all data (ethically)
8	Record all data & findings, write draft report.
9	Write second report draft, ensure all sections are properly completed, including proposal & diary.
10	Complete report & diary, Analyse everything thoroughly then submit both products.

CAFS

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

* Project Diary

The research should explore different attitudes and views of the homeless, identifying their problems and implications. The research product will educate people to what support is available out there to the homeless and how the community and yourself can help make a difference in this world and put a stop 'Homelessness'.

There a three types of people in this world.... Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder why things happen! This research product will explain and explore ways of which you can help. It's your choice ..... "Experience the difference"

The Independent Research Project will be presented in an organised folder with a page including 'contents' and 'page numbers' ..... The following headings will be addressed;

* Title Page
* Contents
* Abstract
* Acknowledgments
* Introduction
* Literature Review

* Methodologies
* Results
* Analysis & Discussion
* Summary & Conclusion
* Bibliography
* Appendixes

— Homeless is a difficult term to define as ppl disagree on whom to include as homeless.

Homeless; without a conventional home & who lask most of the economic & social supports that a home normally affords.

(often cut off from support of relatives & friends, have few independent resources & often have no-immediate means of self-support. Basically, they have inadequate access to safe & secure housing)

— Different degree's of homeless.

Some live in the: street, crisis or refuge accomadat which is temporary, squats, unsafe family circumstances, extrodinary expenses or personal crisis.

Week ①   22nd-December-2007

This is going to be my product diary over the next ten weeks for conducting my Independent Research proposal/project. today at home I am just finalising ideas from discussions with mrs McCavney over the phone for my IRP... So at the moment I have chosen the "Homless" to research but not sure about hypothesis. or keeping the one I used for "product plan" I think I'll change it because the current one limits to what I can research. I need one with depth so I will work on that.

25th December -20(

Christmas day but I have thought of hypothesis wit more depth; "In Australia the issue of homelessnea is becoming more of a problem. Is their sufficient community support? is homelessness more prevalent metropolitan areas of Australia?." (mrs McCavney helped with the ideas.).

27th-December -2(

Today I'm just formulating ideas for what researc questions. I can use and expanding on it a bit more in depth.. then later on I wiu choose and modify which ones I will use.

Week ②   3rd - January 20(

I am currently over looking my research proposal and fixing what suggestions have been made from my teacher. I am looking forward to interviu

Week ② Continued -

and questionaries to see other people's responses and thoughts/opinions on this issue. I'm thinking about questions etc for interviews and following guidlines for "Integrity of data" which can be tricky.

4th - January - 2008

After some research and consideration I have decided to interview some people locally to discuss weather they think homelessness is an issue in our community and why? also main factors contributing to homelessness.

Week ③

8th January

After overviewing all my feedback work from product plan and having discussions and overviewing ideas ect from last terms phone conversations, I have been looking and researching for more background information on homelessness seeing the statistics - proving homelessness is on the increase.

Although its January I still have only yet not long started much work towards IRP which I will probley formulate a plan so I know what needs to be done and when to exactly do it. which will make it alot easier putting everything together.

Project Outline

The aim of My independent Research project is to discover what is their for the help of homeless people and in what area's of Australia is it an issue.

I hope researching will help me find out the main contributing factors leading to homelessness, Research does show that homeless Agency's and organisations need to be more direct and advertised in the community because when I was researching for homeless services it is so difficult to access and find.

Research methods for information will be questionaires surveys, interviews and observation in gaining statistics and data about this matter. I aim to discover the opinions of students, parents

All research I find will be ethical making it suitable for "IRP".

Week 3   continued...

I hope to send questionnaires to some students, parents, teachers to have their responses ready to submit and also allocate them enough time to think about it. - Shortly after typed up correctly.

Week 4   - [Collect information from secondary sources]
13th January 2008

Today at the town library I had a good look for secondary sources but didn't find as many as I'd hoped. There were some newspaper articles about homelessness which I photocopied, and i found a book. the internet also gave me alot of information but that research source isn't always ethical so you have to be careful. I will go through all the found work and use what is relevant information.

WEEK 5 19th January

- Develop questionnaires, surveys, interview (piot all)

This week I have created some surveys, Questionnaire and interview questions, I had ideas for them roughly written during conversation over phone with teacher so they have been modified and expanded this week hopefully I aim to get them typed up and handed out so I can get some feedback for the rest of my Research.

21st January

This Afternoon I typed up the student survey and the parent survey. The survey etc was pretty tricky to put together with all the boxes - having them lined up. Finally now finished and finalising all questionnaires and surveys I will have them out next week.

Week 6
27th January 2008

→ Distribute primary sources // conduct surveys & interview.

Getting everything organised is far more difficult than I expect. I have to ensure all questions are ethical and do not offend anyone whilst still trying to obtain answers to my question.

29th January 2008

I completed the homeless questionnaire questions this afternoon and have piloted it with a few people. I will photocopy it tomorrow along side with the other surveys. This way I can conduct the surveys late this week, early next week.

PART

"C"

THE PROJECT PRODUCT

Abstract.   KiK

Over a period of ten weeks between 22nd December 2007 and roughly to March 2008, a variety of research has been conducted in order to attempt to gain an insight into ~~too Street Contexts are~~ homelessness and what people in the general public think about it.

The aim of conducting research into this topic was to gain an insight into how the community, especially students and parents felt about homeless people and would they help if they could.

Using surveys, questionnaires and interviews, a range of parents, students and teachers throughout parkes have been questioned as to their feelings about homelessness and the government guidlines. In all, 20 surveys were handed out to random students between year two and twelve, with a 100% return rate, 20 surveys were handed out to random parents with a 50% return rate, and 20 questionnaires were handed out to different ~~businesses~~ people in parkes district with 40% return rate. Both qualitive and quantitive research was used in order for a range of valid results to be collected, and to vary the kinds of results presented.

After conducting various forms of primary research, it is recommended that, in order to uncover more reliable and varied information and results, a much larger sample size should be undertaken. This should include the questioning of people outside the parkes region, along with a wider range of members of the community - including local members of parliment and homlessness support network.

The following reports includes the details of the information discovered throughout this extensive research task, including the result and conclusions formed after processing the data received.

"Acknowledgements"

There are numerous people I would like to thank for their assistance with my research.

- Mrs McCarney - ex CAFS teacher.
- Mrs Burgen - current CAFS teacher.
- Mrs Warburton/mr Hues - PHS Library staff
- Parkes town library.

Thankyou for the support, assistance & patience you have showed me over the last 10 weeks, without your help I would not have been able to successfully complete this task.

Introduction

The topic "In Australia the issue of homelessness is becoming more of a problem. Is their sufficient community support? Is homelessness more prevalant in metropolitan areas of Australia." was chosen as I have a genuine interest in the homelessness and their lifestyle. In light of these factors, I am very concerned with the growing number of homeless human beings, children, teenagers and adults in our current society. Is there enough or sufficient community support? It is for these reasons that I wished to investigate what actions the government is taking on to prevent the increase of homlessness. I also wish to discover the reactions of society in relation to the assistance that the Government is providing, and if people feel these actions are enough or if more support measures need to be implemented.

This topic relates directly to the syllabus sections on ~~Resource management~~ ?? "Homelessness", (list pages)

While conducting this research, it was necessary to be constantly aware of personal views, and to ensure that these views were not forced onto other people through the wording in the surveys and questionnaires distributed. It was ensured that no predetermined views were implemented in the primary research methodologies distributed, nor was the language offensive or unethical in any way. To ensure research methods were ethical and non bias, all questionnaires, interviews, and surveys were piloted with an number of senior people, including teachers and parents, all of whom provided feedback on any risque topics.

Privacy was also an issue that had to be dealt with to ensure participants felt comfortable with completing surveys. To ensure all ethical requirements were met, participants were treated with respect and integrity, with all documents remaining confidential and anonymous.

There were limitations encountered with conducting research within only the ~~dubbo~~ Parkes region. Due to restriction of time & resources.

Literature Review

homlessness, especially child homelessness is a growing concern, not only in Australia but throughout the world Australian homeless statistics, 99,900 housless people in Australia, 54% adults over 24yrs of age, 10% under the age of 12, 36% young people between 12 - 24 years, 42% of housless people were female, 58% were single, 19% were couples, 23% were families.

On the census right - housless people were considered by census to be housless were staying in services funded through the supported Accomodation Assistance program. they provide fund for crisis services to housless people around the country.

There are many causes of homelessness for example: lack of affordable housing, Low paying Jobs, substance abouse and lack of needed services, mental illness and lack of needed services, Domestic violence, Unemployment, poverty, prison release, Change cuts in public assigtance.

Domestic violence is of the most common reasons for women and their children becomming homeless. Homeussness is a dynamic state, children are homeless on Average 10 months at a time. 25% of homeless children are homeless more than once. Hospitalization is common for homeless Children

Health is a big problem in homeless situations and infectious diseases. homeless familes often live in crowded quartes, which increases the risk of the common infectious disease of childhood such as upper respitory infections, ear infections, and diarrhea.