

Case Study: Dixon House Homework Club

Background and Identified Needs

Dixon House is a neighbourhood centre in Clayton that provides a range of services and programs for all ages. The homework club runs on Tuesday afternoons and is open to students from Years 4 - 8. The majority of participants are children of international students at Monash University who have limited support in the wider community. In 2017, Dixon House homework club was shortlisted in the MY Education Awards for Outstanding Community OSHLSP.

The Program

The club provides academic assistance to students who might otherwise not receive any learning support outside of school. There is a focus on newly arrived and CALD background students. The club also supports children with additional social and learning needs. The success of the program depends on the positive mentoring relationship that develops between tutor and student. Social interaction is an important aspect of the homework club. The sessions also incorporate physical activity through active games. Family engagement is encouraged and families can participate in a range of other Dixon House programs.



How the program runs

The club offers a range of learning activities including reading and comprehension, writing exercises with drawing, fun maths quizzes or creative movement and drama games. Activities are designed to help build students' understanding of life in Australia.

There is also a new program which started in Term 1 of 2018. Fit2Learn is run in partnership with a local primary school. It combines physical and academic activity in "...an exciting afternoon of team games that will get you moving and using your brains."

Outcomes for Students

Some of the positive changes include:

- Increased confidence in schoolwork
- Greater confidence in public speaking
- Developing positive connections with children outside their school and grade level
- Increased engagement with physical activity
- Taking initiative and getting involved in planning club activities.

"It's fun, you get to do work with everyone, your friends are here and it's fun to work together."
Student, year 7

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