



ST JOSEPH'S  
**NUDGEE**  
COLLEGE  
BRISBANE · AUSTRALIA

# \*Disability Awareness\*

## My Immersion, (A brief summary):

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 2012 me and 34 fellow Nudgee year 10 men, set out on an undeniably challenging, confronting and up lifting experience, that would change our lives forever. Over the course of the week we visited numerous places which educated, humbled and compelled us to continue this work far beyond the immersion experience. Over the four days, we visited the Craigslea Sensitivity Unit which told the group all we needed to know about disabilities, the next day we visited Youngcare, an accommodation residency for the young people with disabilities. Geebung Special School's sports carnival was the next adventure on our agenda, and the following day we took a trip to Toombul in wheelchairs! This was an extremely challenging and deeply touching task. -By Oliver Smith



- Geebung Special School, Sports Day!

## One Memorable experience:

Upon visiting Youngcare we were invited to a meet-and-greet with the residents. After playing a game of boggle and socialising, we headed outside for a barbeque. While in the process of waiting for the food to be cooked, I decide to grab a pack of cards and preform some magic tricks, to the residents delight! The way in which the residents responded to the tricks was amazing and unbelievably heart-warming. The fact that such a small act could bring so much happiness and joy to these people lives, this response left with an overwhelming feeling that words cannot describe! -By Oliver Smith



-Magic at Youngcare!

 **youngcare**

## Linking to the Justice and Solidarity touchstone:

The Justice and Solidarity touchstone compels us to act with solidarity towards the marginalised. Throughout the course of the immersion, we acted with compassion, enthusiasm, and overwhelming understanding and respect in order to be true signs of faith and demonstrated undeniable justice and solidarity. We did our college proud!



- The Edmund Rice Touchstones

## Linking to Luke's gospel:

The story of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25:37), is an extremely good example of why we should help those in need. Jesus states, "love you neighbour", in the passage the Good Samaritan did not have to stop and help the man in need. He stopped as he recognised the man's suffering and thought of him as his neighbour, compelling him to lend a gracious hand, due to the words of Jesus - love you neighbour.

## Linking to the Catholic Social Teaching's:

The two main Catholic Social Teaching's directly linked to the Disability Awareness immersion are Participation and Human Dignity. This is due to the fact that even though these people do suffer from disabilities, that doesn't mean they should be fully excluded from society, and in turn still participate in today's society. In addition they should still be able to maintain elements of independence, in order preserve their human dignity. It is very important that these social teachings are met in order for these people to live as normally as possible.

## How can you become involved in this immersion?

Even though you may not be part of the Nudgee College community it does not mean you can't be part of the many Disability Awareness programs. There are numerous ways in which you can become involved:

Visit and get to know the residents of Youngcare (extremely rewarding), volunteer to help out at the RBCH and Geebung special school's various events and also you could organise special outings for the residents, patients and students which would definitely brighten up their day.