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## Researching your school's community

Increasingly educators are investigating the ways in which places, along with class, race, sexuality and gender, impact on the identity formation of young people. For instance young people growing up and going to school in regional towns may have different experiences from those in the outer suburbs, and from those in rural communities, and so on. Young people in wealthy suburbs may share aspects of their lives that are different from those living in less advantaged areas. Yet youth studies also show the extent to which the global media and economy also mean that they will have common experiences. As educators we are interested in making available curricular experiences that don't short-change students, no matter where they are growing up and going to school. We know that place does matter. What we know less about is how it matters to different people.

We are inviting you, along with your students, to collect data and/or design artefacts that represent:

Living in the local area \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of suburb/town)

Teaching in this community \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of school)

### ***Living here...***

Ask your students to bring to school an artefact or an image that represents for them an important aspect of living in their communities. Items may include:

- actual material objects (eg sporting clothes, membership insignia etc)
- photos of significant places, things, people or signs
- short videos of activities or places in the local area (eg parks, malls, streets, sporting clubs, cafes)
- drawing, paintings, montages

They should produce a caption that names the object and explains why they chose it.

### ***Teaching here...***

Select, collect or make an artefact, image or object that symbolises teaching in your school for you.

Name the object and write a short caption.