



# NOTRE DAME COLLEGE

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14 September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

For a number of years Notre Dame College has been taking Year 10 students on trips to Fiji, Timor Leste and Lombadina/Djaridjin, a remote Aboriginal Community near Broome in Western Australia. We refer to these trips as an Immersion Experience. This term is used to highlight the fact that one of the main purposes of the trip is to 'immerse' the students in another culture. In 2018 we had 47 students involved in these trips with 6 going to Broome, 9 going to Timor Leste and 32 going to Fiji. The College plans to run all of these trips again next year. There was a presentation made to all of the Year 9 students on Tuesday 16 October. Students interested in going on an Immersion Experience were asked to take this letter home to their families and discuss the trips with them.

Students going on these trips will be placed outside their known comfort zones, immersed in a new culture and actively involved in social justice activities. They will be able to address the concept of what it means to be a young person involved in social justice issues on a global scale. Furthermore it provides the opportunity for students to develop a greater sense of self, their place in the world and the direction their lives could take. They will learn the importance of living simply and walking humbly in their journey through life.

Working and learning alongside students their own age, or younger, will develop a strong connection for both Notre Dame College students and the communities they visit. We would also assume that these students bring back to our school a passion for being involved in local social justice issues as well.

These trips will be held during the June/July break in 2019 and usually involve one week of a school Term and one week of the holidays; although it is possible that the students may go for the two weeks of the holidays and not miss a school week. Students will need to apply for the privilege to attend one of these trips and the following points are a guide to our expectations of students who go on an immersion trip:

- Attend a parent/student information night
- Complete an application form
- Able to cover the subsidised cost of the trip, approx. \$2000
- Be willing to participate in some social justice activities at Notre Dame College
- Be involved in pre and post-immersion trip activities
- Be a willing participant in the activities whilst on the trip

These trips are usually oversubscribed, so in addition to the above students may have to go through a selection process before being chosen. You and your child are invited to an information night in the Kennedy/Crane Community Area of our Emmaus Campus on **Thursday 25 October 2018 from 7:00 - 8:00pm**. There is limited parking at the Emmaus Campus so we recommend parents use St Luke's Primary School car park and walk in. This meeting will provide you with important details about the Immersion Experience and be an opportunity to clarify and ask any questions you may have. From past experience we consider this information night to be an important step in choosing students for this experience, so we would encourage you to make every effort to attend if your child has a real interest in this trip. Please contact me at the school if you are interested but cannot make this meeting.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Les Billings  
Deputy Principal, Catholic Identity