



I wish I had the opportunity to learn like this when I was at school. We all have special talents and skills and it is just so rewarding to see so many children having the chance to shine in Hands on Learning.

I am so grateful to our partner schools and the dedicated team of artisan-teachers delivering Hands on Learning to an ever expanding number of children, and to our wonderful faithful supporters who have all contributed so generously to make the growth of Hands on Learning possible.

Thank you all

Russell Kerr OAM, HoL Founder, Frankston High School, Victoria

BUILDING OPTIMISM

UNLEASH POTENTIAL

Everyone learns better when they are safe, relaxed and interested. When we belong and when we have a platform to achieve – anything is possible.

INTRODUCING HANDS ON LEARNING

Hands on Learning (HoL) is a practical school program that builds wellbeing, engagement and attendance by creating opportunities for young people to discover their talents and experience success through significant and authentic hands-on projects.

HoL was first piloted at Frankston High School in 1999 by Russell Kerr OAM. Students thrived when learning by doing, engaging in tasks that were authentic and readily achievable – tasks that built self-confidence and self-esteem. HoL grew from this simple principle.

Hands on Learning Australia and Save the Children Australia joined forces in 2017 united by the vision of a world in which every child learns from a quality basic education. Save the Children is Australia's largest aid and development agency dedicated to helping children.

RURAL, REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN LOCATIONS

Today our Hands on Learning School Support team partners with primary, secondary and special schools in both the state and catholic sectors across rural, regional and metropolitan settings in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland. [HoL implementations](#) have grown by more than 400 per cent over the last 10 years due to the scalable methodology and strong evidence base.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Hands on Learning and Hands on Learning Café have been included in the Top 100 Global Collection by Finnish education non-profit [HundrED](#) as inspiring education programs that are innovative, impactful and scalable and effective in low resource environments.



ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE AS THESE STUDENTS COMPLETE PLANTER BOXES TO BRIGHTEN THE ENVIRONMENT OF THEIR SCHOOL.

HANDS ON LEARNING

SKILLS FOR SCHOOL AND LIFE

Hands on Learning is all about learning by doing and building the social and emotional capacities to thrive at school, in the workplace, and in life.

HOW IT WORKS

Ten students spend one day every week working collaboratively with two artisan-teachers on authentic meaningful projects around the school and community. Students thrive when learning by doing – helping build strong relationships, connection, engagement, wellbeing, confidence and achievement. Students stay onsite at their own school and the methodology integrates what is happening in HoL back to the classroom.

STUDENTS

Students from different year levels are referred by wellbeing staff, year level co-ordinators and school leadership teams. HoL supports a diversity of students to build aspiration and realise their potential. Sometimes it is emerging school leaders improving their communication and teamwork skills, sometimes it is students suffering anxiety, or sometimes it is disengaging students overcoming challenges that impact on classroom participation and learning such as managing their emotions or relationships with others.

STAFF

Two artisan-teachers are employed directly by partner schools. Save the Children Australia’s HoL School Support team provides training, ongoing support, professional development and quality assurance. Schools become part of regional HoL networks to foster the sharing of ideas and inspiration.

“We have expanded Hands on Learning to three days because of the positive return we were seeing in student behaviour, attendance and work readiness and our desire to support a larger and wider variety of kids. We recognise many students need a less formal setting to learn. HoL helps us engage the kids who don’t like coming to school and it provides a gradual reintroduction to school for the school refusers who have had a previous bad experience. The students have built a real sense of belonging with the Hands on Learning space itself, and a much greater connection with peers and teachers so they are happier coming to school, which changes the way they think about school and their attendance rates have gone through the roof.”

Blair Young, HOD Curriculum (Student Services- Jnr School)/Manager of High Performance Programs, Ipswich State High School



THE FOUNDATIONS OF HoL

EMPOWERING WELLBEING

Encompassed by structured reflective practice, HoL is an onsite education program made up of four fundamental elements that build the wellbeing platform for young people to grow in confidence, engage and achieve at school.

A PLACE TO BELONG

A physical sanctuary at school.

PEOPLE TO BELONG TO

Small teams working together, sharing meals and building strong relationships.

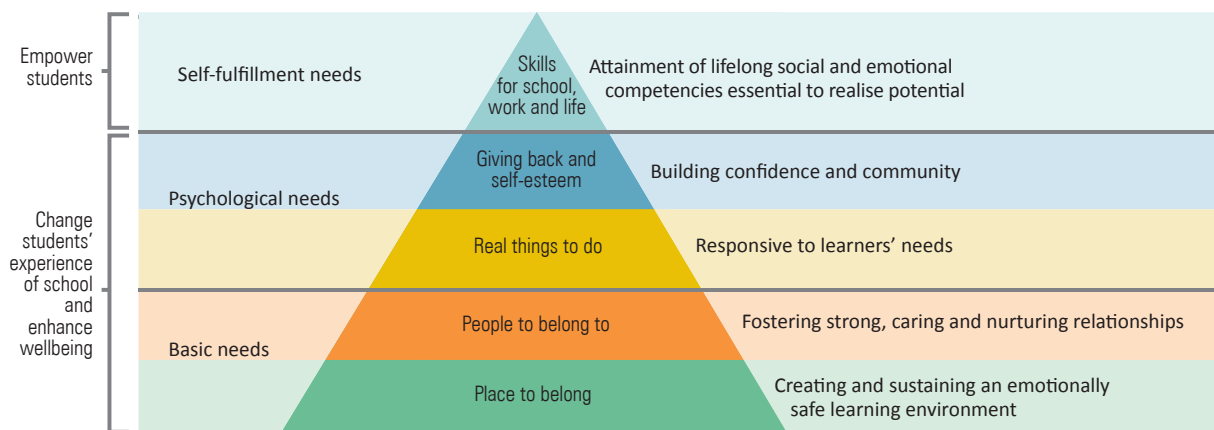
REAL THINGS TO DO

Engaging in creative and meaningful projects.

A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK

Making valuable contributions to their community, building self-esteem and connection.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING



Borrowing the principles of Maslow's hierarchy, we capture the way the four fundamental elements of HoL empower students. HoL students engage with their learning by feeling safe and connected, having a sense of belonging, feeling that what they are doing at school is purposeful, and believing they are developing meaningful skills to thrive at school, within their community, and into employment.

"It's all about engagement, wellbeing and meaning. You can't engage kids in school work unless they feel good about themselves and have a chance to succeed. If you don't feel good about yourself in the classroom, how can you push yourself to learn? How can you have something to look forward to at school?"

Parent, Rainbow P-12 College, Victoria