

mercy foundation youth awards 2016

Teacher’s Notes

1. Introduction

The Mercy Foundation Youth Awards is a competition for Secondary schools in Australia. The purpose of the award is to encourage students to learn more about the issue of homelessness in Australia.

This year, we ask the question: Are food vans and sleeping bags enough?

This theme will challenge students’ ideas about helping people experiencing homelessness. Many students would only be aware of the activities that meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness. We also need to consider permanent solutions to end their homelessness. The solution to homelessness is safe, affordable, appropriate housing, and in some cases, extra support may be needed to help people sustain their tenancy.

**Please read the Mercy Foundation Youth Awards 2016 Terms and Conditions available on our website, www.mercyfoundation.com.au.**

2. The Challenge

Students are invited to develop a short video, up to 4 minutes long, that answers the question “are food vans and sleeping bags enough?” The video should challenge the audience’s attitude towards homelessness.

The closing date for the awards is Friday, 24 June 2016.

Information about the competition, information about homelessness and ending homelessness can be found on our website, [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au) or <http://mercyyouthaward.org>

Students are encouraged to work in groups of 2 to 5 students.

3. Awards

The total prize pool for the Mercy Foundation Youth Awards is **$2,500**

First prize:

* $700 will be awarded to the winning student group
* $700 will be awarded to the winning school\*

Second Prize:

* $350 will be awarded to the winning student group
* $350 will be awarded to the school\*

Third Prize:

* $200 will be awarded to the winning student group
* $200 will be awarded to the school\*

\* Schools are requested to spend their prize money on social justice resources and/or activities to promote social justice in your school and/or to a charity addressing social justice issues in Australia.

All students will receive Certificate of Achievement for entering the competition. Merit Certificates will be awarded at the judging panel’s discretion.

4. Judging

Submissions will be judged according to their content, accuracy of information, creativity, originality, effort and quality. The judging committee comprises staff and Board members of the Mercy Foundation.

5. Incorporating the Awards into your curriculum

Teachers may wish to incorporate the competition into the current curriculum modules. The Awards may be used as a formative task in the RE Studies unit “Working for Justice”, in IT, economics/commerce, PDHPE, English and Art.

6. Submissions

Entries should be submitted electronically and use a format including but not limited to mp4. .mov, Quicktime movie, or upload to youtube in private setting and share with [youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au).

Entries can be submitted by :

1. Posting a DVD or USB to Mercy Foundation Youth Awards, 40 Rocklands Road Wollstonecraft NSW 2065
2. Submit using a file transfer site dropbox, Googledrive, wetransfer.com, wesendit.com and share the files with the mercy foundation using the email [youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au)

Please include an Entry Form with each entry. The entry form is available on our website. By submitting an entry form, students acknowledge that they have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions for the Mercy Foundation Youth Awards 2016.

The Mercy Foundation will acknowledge all entries received. It is the responsibility of the Entrants to ensure that the Mercy Foundation has received their entry and entry form.

Please ensure that the entry form is emailed to [youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au)

If your students win a prize or merit award, we will contact your school for permission to show the entry in a public domain.

7. Closing Date

The closing date is midnight on **Friday 24 June 2016.**

Winners will be announced the week commencing 1 August 2016

8. Terms and Conditions and more information

By entering the competition, students acknowledge that they have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions for the Mercy Foundation Youth Awards 2016, available on our website, [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au) .   
For more information call the Mercy Foundation on 02 9911 7390.