THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

AND FUNDING BUZ PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS – SOME DOT POINTS

* BUZ IS NOT EXPENSIVE

If one student participated in a BUZ program for each year they were in primary school (PP-6) it would cost them around only $45 over the 7 years for about 50 hours of important Social and Emotional training. The equivalent 50 hours of piano lessons would cost over $2,500. In comparison BUZ is not expensive.

* For 10 years, from 2001, Nurture Works invested in and developed a series of holistic social and emotional programs that were offered to schools in the South West of WA. A number of schools contracted Nurture Works to come and run these programs in their school - usually at around $25 to $30 per child for an 8 hour program.
* YouthCARE was aware of these programs and many chaplains had been indicating that their schools were asking if they could conduct social and emotional learning programs in their schools. YouthCARE went looking for the most suitable programs to offer training for their chaplains. Many Chaplains had indicated to YouthCARE that the BUZ material was very suitable. They knew that these programs were running in the SW and asked YouthCARE if they could become available to Chaplains.
* YouthCARE approached Nurture Works in 2009 and after a 2 year negotiation entered into an agreement where Nurture Works would develop the programs so that they were totally accessible for chaplains and their schools, to develop the appropriate training for the programs and develop the materials so that the chaplains can be equipped to run the programs.
* YouthCARE has invested a considerable about of money in the 3 year project to make the 7 BUZ Life Skills programs available not only to Chaplains, but to schools and teaching staff.
* The training, the facilitator’s manuals and the program resources are all heavily subsidised by YouthCARE. It was hoped that schools would recognise this subsidy and come on board to help with the PD training and equipping of their chaplains to be able to offer the suite of BUZ programs in their schools and meet the Social and Emotional Learning needs of their students.
* Comparatively, the program booklets, manuals and journals are well priced and inexpensive for the students. The average cost for a student doing a BUZ program is less than $1.00 per hour. Most BUZ programs run for 8 weeks. A child doing piano lessons would pay at least $25 for a 30 minute lesson. The Students booklets/manuals cost between 1 to 2 cappuccinos.
* Many of the other Social and Emotional Learning programs on offer rely on "Black Line Masters" - the photocopying of these is often a hidden cost in these programs. Children usually do the work on these photocopied sheets; they may be put in a folder and sometimes taken home, not generally treasured and rarely held onto by students. The experience with the BUZ booklets, manuals and journals is that children hold onto them a lot longer, treasure them and often refer back to them.
* The training for Chaplains (and teachers) that is offered by YouthCARE is subsidised and greater than 50% off equivalent training or conferences.
* Most Primary Schools receive the benefit of Chaplaincy services at very little cost to the school. It is important that these chaplains are well resourced to carry out the task of supporting children in pastoral care and their social and emotional well being.
* The Program materials/kits have a 10% to 25% discount on most of the items. I know of a school that recently purchased some Science equipment (a few kits that fit on one school desk) that cost $1200. For the same amount a school could purchase the program materials kits needed for all of the BUZ Programs for all year levels needed for their school.
* Budgeting and finance is always a bit tricky for schools especially with changing numbers and the expectations placed on schools to cover more and more in their curriculum.
* Schools do have their budgeting issues and all schools have different ways of tackling finances. Some schools have prioritised the BUZ initiatives in their school and have paid for the whole school to receive BUZ programs. Some schools have extra finances - e.g. BMAD (many schools have used a portion of their BMAD money to pay for BUZ programs.
* In some schools the P and C contributed to the cost of the programs. I heard of a school that recently was given $1700 from the P and C to pay for the bus for the year 7's to go on their camp - only 25 students. This amount would more than cover the cost of the full kits for all of the BUZ Programs.
* We need to be more passionate about the Social and Emotional well being of children and place a higher value on SEL programs in schools. Social and Emotional well being should be up there alongside Literacy and Numeracy, Sport and Science in relation to its priority and funding. If we are serious about the well being of children there would be a regime of testing that has equal status as NAPLAN.
* Big corporate bodies, including supermarket enterprises could donate $$$ to schools not just for sports equipment and computers but to the social and emotional well being of the students.
* Copyright and Intellectual Property

Nurture Works has invested heavily in the BUZ initiatives for over 12 years. YouthCARE has invested in the BUZ programs and training of Chaplains in BUZ for 2 years.

It is asked that schools respect this professional ownership and copyright integrity of both organisations. It is unlawful for schools to photocopy the student’s manuals, in the same way that it is unlawful for schools to use computer programs without the correct licenses.

It is important that Chaplains and teachers trained to deliver BUZ programs hold to the licence agreement that they sign when they complete the various training for BUZ programs. This includes the use of the student’s manuals and resources for the various programs.