



## Education Foundation Australia: Making a difference since 1989

*Education Foundation Australia is unique in its focus on philanthropic support for public education. It is the only independent, non-profit organisation in Australia that strengthens public education by investing private monies (philanthropic and corporate) into primary and secondary schools. Our focus is educational excellence and equality of opportunity.*

### **ruMAD?: Young people leading change**

The ruMAD? (*Are You Making A Difference?*) Program enables young people to lead change in their community by becoming active citizens. It is about making a difference.

In recent times national and state government policies in education have emphasised the need to teach for greater and deeper understanding and for the incorporation of values education into the curriculum.

ruMAD?'s innovative approach to teaching and learning is a bold example of how these two important curriculum directions can successfully be addressed within one program. ruMAD? activities are based upon student identified values and interests. Within ruMAD? students take responsibility for their learning through an inquiry approach that is designed to assist them to come to deeper understanding of the community issues they tackle. The ruMAD? process is an example of a 'thinking curriculum in action'.

It is about making a difference to student learning, to schools, and to communities. Through ruMAD? students are immersed in a unique program of social change and innovative learning.

The process starts with students identifying shared and important values as a group. Once shared values are established students identify community issues that are inconsistent or in conflict with those shared values. Students then explore possibilities for action through various levels of involvement in social change projects, and lead the planning and implementation of their chosen projects.

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**Education Foundation**

A decorative graphic consisting of several colored dots (red, orange, yellow) arranged in a horizontal line, with some dots slightly larger than others.