



Ethical Encounter on Immersion

On Friday 9th of September, the Edmund Rice Justice Trust hosted an Ethical Encounter breakfast on Immersion. Br. Paul Robertson (Robbo), chair of the ERJ Trust and Anthropology PhD candidate presented to the group. Robbo shared some of his insights on cross-cultural immersion and facilitated a group discussion on some of the ethical issues that come with the term 'immersion'.



A number of the group had previously been on the Edmund Rice schools India Trip and had been facilitators/leaders on the trips. We also had people who were planning a cross-cultural immersion for the near future. We would like to thank all those who attended the breakfast, as well as Br. Rob for leading the discussion. There will be one more Ethical Encounter this year which will take place in Christchurch. For more information, please visit [our website](#).

Auckland Street Immersion 2016

The second Auckland Street Immersion took place over the weekend of the 22nd-24th of September. The immersion explored themes of homelessness, objectification of the poor and the way in which we use stereotypes. The weekend was made up of several modules and involved sleeping rough in Auckland CBD. Like last years program, there were three participants who were all from Edmund Rice Camps and were university students. They endured a cold rainy September weekend and had some interesting, yet challenging experiences along the way. Below are some of the

insights and thoughts that they had about the immersion.

"I found it surprising how we were welcomed with open arms by almost everyone we met. Street culture is one of kindness, giving, belonging and family." – Ally Bijl-Brown

"Initially I had second thoughts about participating as I was concerned for my safety on the streets, but now I am very glad I got the chance to take part in such an eye opening experience. You will truly understand the phrase "the people that have the least are the ones to give the most" after this experience. – Andrew Chu

"Seeing life through the lens of being on the streets is an unimaginable experience. It showed me the importance of belonging and being a part of a family and community." - Julian D'Souza

For more information about the Street Immersion [visit our website.](#)



Edmund Rice Schools Street Retreat

Hosted by St. Thomas of Canterbury College, the Street Retreat took place from the 29th-1st of October. Year 12 students from all ER schools around New Zealand came together to explore different margins within society. The students spent an afternoon at the Youth Unit of Christchurch Men's Prison where they shared a BBQ, games of touch and basketball and a bit of banter with the inmates. The weekend also involved visits to the City Mission, and St. John o' God Hospital. At night, the students experienced sleeping rough. It was an incredibly insightful experience for the group.

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