



# THE FOUR ROOMS OF CHANGE



## Case Study - Four Rooms of Change at Point Lonsdale P.S.

### Background:

Point Lonsdale Primary School is a small primary school operating within Victoria's Barwon South Western Region on the Bellarine Peninsula close to the regional city of Geelong. In 2010, the school's principal, Fay Agterhuis made the decision to join the TLN pilot project in Victoria which was then launched in 2011. She then embarked on her own journey to become a certified user of the Four Rooms of Change theory and associated tools.

The school had already been a Tribes Learning Community TLC® for over a decade and therefore already had a strong commitment to creating a positive school and classroom environment as the most effective way to improve behaviour and learning. As part of the Tribes process, Point Lonsdale Primary School has developed a culture that focuses on social and emotional learning and places an emphasis on relationship building between students and staff and students and students across all year levels. Implementing the Four Rooms of Change was seen as a way of taking this approach to the next level.

### Application:

Teachers working with the Children's Four Rooms in the classrooms at Point Lonsdale Primary School have noted how the program not only assists students to communicate their thoughts and emotions and build better relationships with their peers and teacher, but also is a powerful tool in the classroom situation. Positive effects have included enabling the teacher to gauge the level of understanding in class, helping to monitor multiple groups during group time and assessing the understanding and functioning of 'quieter' groups.

### Testimonials:

*Most importantly the Four Rooms is a reflective tool for teachers. The rooms operate as a form of classroom barometer. JUST LOOK AT WHAT THE MAGNETS ARE TELLING YOU can become a powerful refrain. No words or intense dialogue is required to gather feedback from the students. What are the magnets telling me? What do I/we need to do? The Four Rooms program can highlight issues around curriculum delivery, suggest there was a problem with lesson clarity or indicate there is a social/emotional issue at play.*

Fay Agterhuis, Principal

*Perhaps one of the most valuable aspects of the program links back to my 'other role' as a parent. I think I am like most parents, I would like for my children when they are at school to be happy, to be content, to be safe and to be learning. This program provided me with a mechanism as a teacher to measure some of those things and to respond to children in a way that was more likely to help them feel happy, content, safe and to maximise their learning. Any program that can help me deliver this as a teacher, any program that will help me build stronger relationships with the children in my class has me on board.*

Tony Foster, Teacher

For more on the Four Rooms of Change® go to [www.fourroomsofchange.com.au](http://www.fourroomsofchange.com.au).

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