

## ***Lesson 2: Teacher Resource Sheet 1***

### **Litter and Littering**

#### **Defining litter and littering**

Litter can be defined as any waste item abandoned in a public space. Littering is the act of dropping litter.

Litter is found everywhere in our environment. It is found in the playground and nearby streets. It is found in parks and along our highways. It can be found in our waterways and oceans. It finds its way into such places either directly or indirectly. People, for example, can abandon food wrappers and drink bottles/cans when they finish a take-away meal, or the wind can blow discarded wastes long distances.

#### **Impacts of litter and littering**

Litter has several environmental impacts. It can be hazardous to animals and people and is a costly issue to deal with. A hazard is defined as anything with the potential to cause harm. Litter, especially discarded plastics, is harmful for animals if eaten or entangled in it. Toxins from plastics can also enter the food chain with often harmful effects. Animals (and humans) can be injured by broken glass.

The aesthetic impacts of litter can also be significant. Litter is unsightly and can discourage people from visiting places such as parks and beaches. Polluted waterways can lose their recreational value.

#### **Forms of littering**

Community Change (<https://www.communitychange.com.au/>), an anti-littering organisation, has identified 11 forms of littering behaviours. These are shown on Resource Sheet 1 and in PowerPoint Presentation 1 (Slide 6)).

#### **Positive behaviours**

Community Change also identified several positive littering behaviours regarding littering. These are shown on Resource Sheet 2 and in PowerPoint Presentation 1 (slides 7).