



National Network of ABCDE Learning Sites (Australia) What's in it for us as a Community?

Participation in the National Network of ABCDE (Asset Based Community Driven Efforts) Learning Sites is a unique opportunity for any Australian community to intentionally start or deepen its community building efforts. The Project focuses on teams of local '*community builders*'- groups of 7-12 local residents willing to provide the leadership to instigate a series of community conversations and social interaction activities across their neighbourhood/small town that enables local residents to –

- Map, connect and celebrate community assets, capacities and opportunities;
- Use the mapping discoveries to develop a community vision and action plan; and
- Lead and coordinate the implementation of actions that enable their community to be a more caring, inclusive, connected, safe and interesting place.

Benefits for Participating Communities:

- Resources to strengthen existing community building initiatives and instigate new actions.
- Opportunity to be part of both a pilot national program operating in all states of Australia and a local cluster of neighbourhoods/small towns – such participation will enable sharing with, and learning from a diverse range of other community action groups on the community building journey.
- Access to a range of skill training and mentoring opportunities, including on-line and real-time face to face facilitated Peer-to-Peer Learning Site sharing session, webinars and facilitated discussion forums.
- Access to a Project Website which will allow each community to have their own pages and access to a wide range of tools and experiences from across the country and globe.
- Access to a Tool Kit of practical tools, support materials, DVDs, case studies and 'How to..' resources related to asset-mapping, hosting conversations, using local media, using digital technology, local leadership development, visioning, funding options and so much more.
- Support of a part time '*Community Connector*' who can provide the group with some organisational 'arms and legs'.
- On the ground and Skype support, mentoring and trouble shooting from both internationally and nationally recognised ABCDE facilitators.
- Access to '*Social Reporter*' training with a view to support the gathering and sharing of stories that emerge from the community, and an Evaluation Learning Framework to plot and promote the difference being made in the community.
- Opportunity to participate in a National Gathering once a year and two one day State Gatherings that bring together community members from all the Project sites.

'Communities are incubators of innovation and are where our 'can do' spirit resides. In community lies hope and new opportunities for citizens to volunteer, celebrate, learn about their responsibilities and take action together.'

(John W Gardiner)

'Community happens when people talk to each other.'

(Becky McCray)