

Community Leadership through Learning & Partnerships

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Community Leadership through Learning & Partnerships

This presentation is in three parts:

- Partnership with Local Government.
- Springvale Learning & Activity Centre - delivering learning activities and adult education.
- A practical approach to learning – the partnership in action.

Partnership with Local Government

What is the role of Local Government?

- Local Government has a strong commitment to community engagement, community development and community building.
- Provide for, fund, resource and support a diverse range of community initiatives, organisations and groups.

Partnership with Local Government

At the local level:

- Liaison role between the sector and Council.
- Joint partners in sector development.
- Funding & Service Agreements.
- Buildings and physical infrastructure.
- Recognition of the community development benefits and outcomes.
- Joint training providers.
- Partners in strategic planning and development.
- Networking and relationship building.
- Referees and support with funding submissions.

Partnership with Local Government

- Eight Neighbourhood Houses in Greater Dandenong.
- The houses & centres see over 4,000 people come through the doors each week.
- The activities range from social support, language & literacy programs, computer program, welfare, referral and information services, playgroups, seniors and on it goes....

Partnership with Local Government



Dandenong Neighbourhood House



Springvale Literacy Centre



Springvale Neighbourhood House



Springvale Learning & Activities Centre



Noble Park Community Centre



Wellsprings for Women



Jan Wilson Community Centre



Keysborough Learning Centre



Partnership with Local Government

How does this work and why?:

- Community Services – Library services, ELLA (English Language & Literacy Access) services, Interpreter services, Computer assisted learning, Counselling & referrals.



Partnership with Local Government

- Advocacy and awareness – promotion and recognition of the role of this sector. (Councillors, community agencies)
- Information and statistics – access to a diverse range of demographics, population trends, maps and geographical information.

Partnerships in Context

**‘2007 ACE Award Winning Project
Innovation in ACE Learning
Partners of Tomorrow’**



Partners

- **Springvale Learning & Activities Centre – ACE provider (SLAC)**
- **TaskForce Community Agency (TF)**
- **Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council (SEAAC)**
- **Victoria Police (VicPol)**
- **City of Greater Dandenong – Social Development (CGD)**



Local Needs

- 1000% increase in number of Sudanese refugees settling in the City of Gr. Dandenong
- Sudanese Youth becoming 'at risk' group
- Significant barriers to access education, employment, sport and recreation
- Negative perceptions and stereotyping in the mainstream community
- Many funded but not connected service providers

Individual Thinking

- **SLAC - local ACE provider – “community connections and life-long learning opportunities”**
- **TF – “breaking the cycle of addiction and unemployment”**
- **SEAAC – Youth Settlement Service Provider**
- **VicPol – Multicultural Liaison Unit looking to establish and promote understanding, positive relationships and cooperation to prevent crime**
- **CGD – fostering and supporting partnerships and community development**



Shared Vision

- **Work in partnership with South Sudanese young people.**
- **Address the issues of language and cultural barriers.**
- **Develop pathways through community involvement.**
- **Building the leadership capacity for the young Sudanese community.**

Project Features:

- ‘bottom up’ model blending local ownership with skills and knowledge from professionals.
- Building individual and community capacity - formal and non-formal training.
- Moving from the ‘service provision model’ to empowering individuals and groups.
- Learning was focused on how to identify and work together with like-minded organisations
- Strengthened relationships between the young Sudanese community and all partner organisations.

Outcomes

Solutions for Participants:

- Improved skills in accredited modules.
- Improved leadership and group facilitation skills.
- Volunteering opportunities (formal and non-formal).
- Broader participation opportunities.
- Relationships, friendship and support networks.

Solutions for Community:

- Engage and empower young people through sport and recreation.
- Educate young people on differences between their Traditional and Australian cultures.
- Encourage them to take on opportunities of education, training and community participation.

Building Community Capacity

- New Stars Basketball Association Inc.
- Futuristic Group for Southern Sudanese in Australia Inc.
- Three project participants got jobs
- Ten enrolled in further studies
- 12 committed volunteers
- 12 hours per week basketball program – 100 youths participate
- Crime Prevention Initiatives
- HOPE Theatre Group

Lessons Learnt

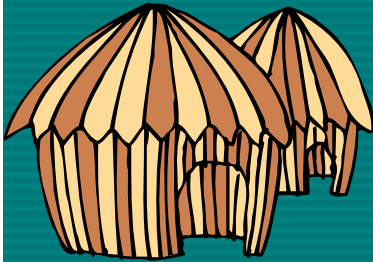
- **Community Involvement and Ownership**
- **Identities, Cultures, Knowledge and Values**
- **True Partnerships** 'Give More, Demand More'
- **Adaptable Program**
- **Skilled Leadership** (frontline and management)
- **Back Up** – (post project support)
- **Resources**

Useful Resources

- **"Sudanese in South East Melbourne: Perspectives of New and Emerging Community"**
SERMRC 2007 www.sermrc.org.au
- **"The Educational Needs of Young Refugees in Victoria"**
Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc. 2007
- **"PARTNERSHIPS IN PRACTICE - What makes them work?"**
Lesley Cook - Manager Research & Business Development
Wesley Community Services
Presentation for 2006 ACWA Conference
- **"Achieving Inclusive Adult Education and Training Practice"**
Dr Kaye Brown, Quest Issue01/Autumn 2008

Building Life– Building Home

African Hut Construction



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