Changing Mindsets around Building Community Capacity

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Community Expectation

Many of our communities want us to all things to them – but should we?

LG's face the day-to-day struggle to balance resources, risk, capacity and expectation.

Are alternate options available?

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Identifying Alternate Options

- Importance of Community Development Teams
  - Data Mapping
  - Relationships
  - Support and capacity building
- Do you know what is already out there?
- If you don't, why don't you?
- How to best use community assets…

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Questions to Ask

- Is our Council skilled and experienced at this task or service delivery?

- Is it our core business?

- Do we have the established connections and skills to do it best?

- If we do it, what will it take us away from?

- Who is best placed and what do they need to do it?

When Community Leads

- Empowerment and engagement
- Address own unique needs and challenges
- Better chance of sustainable change
- Social cohesion
- Learning and adaption
- Improved trust in institutions

You may already have some

- Neighbourhood and Community Centres

- Economic Development Organisations

- Environmental Groups

- Community Services and Youth Organisations

- Chambers of Commerce

- Development Groups

- Social Enterprises

What does LG need to do?

- Change the questions we ask
- Look at how to maximise the return on the dollar
- Review the roles of Council Officers
- Look at the measurements of success

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What can it look like?

- Operational funding

- Seed funding

- Funding capacity building like training and strategic planning

- Activating community leadership

- Letting go of control

- Moving responsibility and ownership

- Procurement

Examples

- Sunshine Coast Council
  - Community Partnership Funding Program
  - Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program

Community Partnership Funding

Operational funding for incorporated not-for-profit groups that provide key facilities or services to local...

Sports Field Maintenance Funding

Funding towards the cost of maintaining sports fields in the region.

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Examples

- ## North Burnett Regional Council
  - Monto Silo Mural
  - Monto and Gayndah

    Rural Aid 10 Towns Makeover

Examples

- South Burnett Regional Council
  - Disaster Preparedness and Homelessness Program

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What you need to develop

Good Governance

- Get the basics right
- Good people around the table with good intent
- Set a strategic plan and keep revisiting this
- Maintain the purpose and vision
- AICD training for NFP directors
- Manage conflicts of interest

A Change in Mindset

Contract Management

- You cannot set and forget

- Regular communication and updates

- Written reporting with evidence

- Work alongside them to sort out challenges

Infrastructure

- Local Government still needs to be involved because of the infrastructure that supports service delivery

Why do it?

Dollars Talk!

- Time limited opportunities – fixed term roles

- Overheads

- EBA vs Award

- Reduction in LG risk

Money can go a lot further in a community organisation

Challenges

- Politics
- No Community Development Team
- Obstructive community leaders
- Old style organisations who don't like change (if they won't change likelihood another organisation will stand up)
- Lack of capacity and governance
- Lack of skilled staff

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Final Comments

- It takes time

- Do not rush it or it will fail

- You have got to hand over some ownership

- Sometimes community needs to fail to succeed in the long run

Questions and Discussion