

Local Government Community Development Services Association of Australia
(LGCDsAA)
Minutes of Executive Meeting 6th April 2006

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jenny Merkus, President, welcomed the new committee of the recently modified Local Government Community Services Association (LGCSA), now known as the Local Government Community Development Services Association of Australia (LGCDsAA).

2. Present

Name	Title	Email Address
Jenny Merkus	National President	jmerkus@moreland.vic.gov.au
Marlene Henry	New South Wales Representative	M.Henry@liverpool.nsw.gov.au
Sirppa Khan	Tasmanian Representative	sirppa.khan@dorset.tas.gov.au
Eric Moes	Queensland Representative	e.moes@caloundra.qld.gov.au
Anne Pratt (Dr)	Northern Territory Representative	anne.pratt@palmerston.nt.gov.au
Kevin Sharp	South Australian Representative	kevin@prospect.sa.gov.au

3. Apologies/Not Present

Tom Pavlos, WA Representative/Treasurer

Peggy Stevenson, Victorian Representative

4. President's Report

In 2005 the Constitution of the Local Government Community Services Association was reviewed and modified so that executive committee members could be sought from all States and Territories. The strategic plan was then reviewed and revised to better align it with the changes to the constitution. However, it was considered that only minor adjustments were required for 2006/07.

It was determined in the meeting that twice yearly meetings were required to manage and support the current projects of the organization. In addition, teleconferences would take place in the interim as required.

5. General Business

5.1 About the LGCDSAA

Frank gave a brief overview of the inception of the LGCSA for new committee members. He was the immediate past president of the Association, and is currently writing a book on the history of community development in Australia. He described the organization as having a strong relationship with ALGA and The Australia Council over the years, and a role in influencing social policy and planning in areas such as indigenous participation in Local Government and councils, and shared responsibilities in childcare. However, with the change of government the organization lost some of its influence and momentum. The Executive is now moving ahead and forging strong relationships with ALGA and other relevant organizations such as the LGMA.

5.2 The Just Communities project.

The Just Communities project was also discussed. This project is a major initiative for the association, which is jointly managed by Graham Sansom, UTS Centre for Local Government, and The LGCDSAA. It will run for two to three years initially to document and further develop democratic policies and practices in LG. The outcomes will include a model citizens rights charter, and a community well-being index. \$15,000 has been provided by the LGCDSAA to seed the project, and all participating Councils will pay \$1500 towards the costs. Additional sponsorship and research funds will be sought.

5.3 Conference 2007

The next LGCDSAA conference will be held somewhere in NSW (probably Sydney). It will be jointly auspiced and managed by the LGCSA NSW, and the Association. The possible topics and themes for the next conference to be held in 2007 were brainstormed and discussed.

These included positive ageing, mental health, social models of health, social indicators of wellbeing, issues around youth unrest – what they say about why they do it etc), leadership (possibly training workshops). The format may include cameos and the overarching theme may be based on “connected communities” or “community connections”.

Some presenters may be headhunted, and the executive members were asked to source possible keynote speakers with a strong reputation for excellence. Jenny

will talk to LGMA, ALGA and Commonwealth departments about the possible conference themes and topics.

6. Finance

A financial summary was tabled and discussed. A \$15,000 no interest loan from LGCDSA Aust to the LGCSA NSW was approved assist in the organization of the 2007 conference. It was agreed that out of the overall 2007 conference budget an estimated \$24,000 would be required for a conference organizer.

Motion proposed by Shannon O'Neill

That John Watson, Tom Pavlos and Shannon O'Neill (in the absence of John Watson) be authorized by the association as signatories for payments.

Seconded: Eric

Carried unanimously.

Just Communities Conference 2004

A report from LGPro on the Just Communities Conference was presented (see attached). The conference was successful overall and made a gross surplus of \$34,947. The half share for LGCDSA Aust is \$16,850.78.

Action Tom to invoice LGPro for \$18,535.86 (incl of GST \$1685.86)

Round Table

All present talked briefly about their role and community development focus in their Councils and States/Territories

7. Other Business

It was agreed to have a teleconference in approximately 4 weeks to further discuss conference themes and possible speakers, and another meeting in October /November

Meeting closed 6.20pm

