

JUST COMMUNITIES

CALL FOR PAPERS

Just Communities

Local Government Community Services Association of Australia

National Conference

26 - 28 October 2005

Hilton on the Park, Melbourne



This Conference is about re-engaging with local communities to create a preferred future that is an alternative to the “me” culture that is so dominant in our society. In our preferred society citizens will be active and communities will participate in improving their quality of life for the common good.

Papers should address one of the four Conference themes and explore the fundamental issues of that theme. Papers may cover a case study or innovative research topic, project or issue, preferably of a local or regional nature. Case studies examining social trends, cultural and community partnerships and strategies, as well as current planning and policy models, are welcome. Papers that highlight significant community development initiatives and practice are encouraged, along with aspects of community leadership and local innovation.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Four themes have been identified as core to the Conference. Please align your paper with a relevant theme and specify the type of paper you will be presenting.

1. Democracy & Rights

- What are the foundations of just communities?
- What are human rights at the local, national and state levels?
- What is local democracy?
- Do we facilitate communities to engage in democratic processes, equity and rights?
- What are the relationships between representation and participation/empowerment?
- Would communities survive, or care, if Local Government did not engage in democracy and rights?
- What is Council’s role as an enabler or leader?
- How do we hear the voices - beyond the loud voices?
- How do we generate active citizenship? What are the barriers to active citizenship?
- What is the relationship between good governance, democracy, equity and rights?

2. Community Planning

- What are the principles of community planning?
- Why and how do we plan holistically?
- How central to Local Government is community planning?

- Who should have the key responsibility for community planning and the place role?
- Is Council planning beyond tokenism?
- How do we engage diverse citizens in selecting priorities and developing indicators?
- How do we enable inclusion from all our diverse citizens?
- What are we engaging people for?
- What is the link between sustainable places and the wellbeing of communities?
- Who determines what and how we measure?
- What is all this measurement for?

3. Cultural Vitality

- How do we ensure the community take culture seriously - or should they?
- What is the role for community cultural expression in stimulating civic engagement?
- How does cultural vitality link to the Council planning role?
- How do we get and celebrate diverse expression?
- How do we listen to all the voices?
- How do arts encourage and generate active cultural expression?
- Is there a cultural and spiritual sense of belonging?
- How do we plan for cultural vitality?
- How do we manage, change and respect cultural values?

4. Health, Leisure and Wellbeing

- Why is Local Government involved in health and wellbeing?
- What are the determinants of health and wellbeing?
- How does Local Government support the health and leisure needs of people at all stages of their lives?
- What are the critical issues for life stages?
- What are the fundamental pillars for wellbeing?
- What makes for resilient communities?
- What can we learn from the developing world?
- Leisure in the 21st century.
- Best practice examples of programs and services contributing to wellbeing.
- How does Local Government support lifelong learning?
- How do we measure wellbeing?
- How do we increase activity and participation to enhance wellbeing and prevent ill health?

OUR EXPECTATIONS OF PRESENTERS

To ensure the quality and relevance of the Conference, we are looking for presenters who will engage their audience by asking key questions. In particular, we require that the workshops be both interactive and challenging.

PRESENTATION FORMATS

You are invited to present your conference paper in one of three formats. Please indicate on the Abstract Form the format your paper will take.

• Symposium

A symposium is a discussion of key issues, policies and trends, their impact on local communities and the broader implications for the nation. Symposiums are an exploration of the environment in which we practice our craft and provide critical analysis of the challenges and opportunities we face in our changing work environment and context.

The aims of a symposium:

- Exploration of issues key to local community development.
- Examination and analysis of current government policy and thinking.
- Detailed examination of the role of government in initiating and supporting community development.
- Stimulation of thought and discussion.

Symposium sessions are 1.5 hours in length. Within each will be a maximum of three presentations of 15 minutes or less and a total of 45 minutes facilitated discussion/debate.

• Workshop

A workshop is an exchange of ideas and examines the practice of specific aspects of local community development. A workshop is information based and offers the opportunity for people to share their views and thoughts and to stimulate discussion.

The aims of a workshop:

- Presentation of a 'best practice' example from a leader in the field.
- Examination of what other workshop delegates are doing in their field.

- Opportunity to discuss hot topics and explore the realm of community development practice.
- Examination of "what has worked", "what were the barriers to success", "what could be improved".

Workshop sessions are 1.5 hours in length. Within this time will be the presentation of one "best practice" case study of a maximum of 15 minutes. This will be followed by a facilitated discussion of common issues and solutions including contributions of case studies by delegates.

• Learning incubator

A learning incubator is an opportunity to learn about the implementation of new concepts and practice and how to address ongoing challenges. Learning incubators are skillbased presentations offering colleagues an opportunity to learn and develop their practice.

The aims of a learning incubator are:

- Exploration of leading practice and/or research.
- Imparting of new skills and techniques.
- Some mechanism for evaluation.

Learning incubators are 1.5 hours in length. Incubators will be facilitated by an expert in the field and should specify the skills to be imparted. Included are practical exercises and the development of action plans for delegates.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DATES

1. The Conference Planning Committee will undertake the final selection of speakers and presenters according to the development of the themes. The Committee will also determine the presenters to appear within each session.
2. Abstracts should be no more than 350 words in length and should include a brief note as to the aim of the presentation.
3. Abstracts must be accompanied by the attached 'Abstract Form'.
4. **Abstracts** should be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word or Rich Text format. Please email to yvonnec@lgpro.com by COB on **Friday 1 April 2005**.
5. Notification of acceptance will take place by email.

ABOUT THE LGCSAA



The Local Government Community Services Association of Australia (LGCSAA) is a federation comprised of representatives from every state community services and community development local government association. During the past decade the LGCSAA has demonstrated its commitment to a strong and viable local government sector.

Since the formation of the LGCSAA in 1986, one of the Association's major activities has been to organise a biennial local government community development conference as a way of providing an opportunity to promote and share good practice in social planning and community development. Conference programs explore contemporary themes as well as ongoing social policy and justice issues and challenges pertinent to Councils and their communities.

2005 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jenny Merkus (President LGCSAA), Moreland City Council
Jean Andrews, Campaspe Shire Council
Mark Doubleday, Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Kathy Parton, Knox City Council
Yvonne Crouch, LGPro

CONFERENCE HOST

Local Government Professionals Inc. is proud to host this Conference.



Local Government Professionals Inc.
PO Box 409
South Melbourne VIC 3205
Phone: (03) 9686 3833
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THE VENUE

Hilton on the Park - Melbourne offers commanding views over the revered Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne Park Tennis Centre, Fitzroy Gardens and the beautiful tree lined streets of East Melbourne. Melbourne's downtown shopping, entertainment and business districts are only a short stroll through Fitzroy Gardens or a picturesque tram ride along one of the many routes which criss-cross the city.

Hilton on The Park - Melbourne
192 Wellington Parade
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Phone: (03) 9419 2000
Fax: (03) 9419 2001

ACCOMMODATION

Hilton on the Park offers 400 elegantly appointed private rooms and suites offering a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city.

There are many other accommodation options in the CBD and surrounding precincts.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on submissions, please contact:
Yvonne Crouch
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Fax: (03) 9690 4217
Email: yvonnec@lgpro.com
Website: www.lgpro.com

ABSTRACT FORM

JUST COMMUNITIES

Local Government Community Services Association of Australia
National Conference
26 - 28 October 2005
Hilton on The Park - Melbourne

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

Author/s: _____

Presenter/s: _____

Theme:

- Democracy & Rights
- Community Planning
- Cultural Vitality
- Health, Leisure & Wellbeing

Format

- Symposium (single presentation = 15 minutes or less)
- Workshop (single presentation = 15 minutes or less)
- Learning Incubator (1.5 hours)

Please return completed form with 350 word Abstract to yvonnec@lgpro.com