



CALL FOR PAPERS

Just and Vibrant Communities

Local Government Community Services Association of Australia

National Conference

28 - 30 July 2003

Townsville

This Conference is about community and cultural development and planning that ensures sustainable long-term benefits to the development of communities so that they are just and fair, vibrant and creative.

Papers should address one of the 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.

THEMES

Five 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. Is integrated community planning a foundation for sustainable communities?**
 - Community visioning for liveable sustainable communities.
 - The community plan as a vehicle to integrate statutory and non-statutory planning at the local level.
 - Balancing the demands of economic growth with sustainability of the environment whilst seeking equity for all citizens.
 - Community planning as a tool to renew local democracy and strengthen community capacity.
 - Successful national and international models of practice and enabling legislation.
 - Measurement tools for quality of life indicators and community plan implementation.
 - Population issues including regional development and migration.
- 2. Social Capital - What are the benefits for local communities?**
 - How do you define, measure and evaluate social capital?
 - Social capital and its relevance to building community capacity.
 - Social capital and its relevance to local government.
 - How neighbourhood design influences quality of life.
- 3. How does the contribution of arts, culture and diversity assist in building vibrant communities?**
 - What place do arts have in promoting inclusivity in communities and working with disadvantage?
 - What is the role of arts in contributing to cultural development and our sense of belonging and connectedness?
 - Is culture "the fourth pillar of sustainability"?
 - Libraries - are they cultural experiences and are they meeting the modern needs of local communities?
 - Is public art contributing to an attractive and stimulating built environment? Is it a point of inspiration to local communities?
- 4. How can local communities strengthen just outcomes and human rights?**
 - A critique of current community planning models and social policy outcomes in ensuring just, fair and inclusive communities.
 - Equity of access to local government services and facilities for all residents.
 - Economic development to enhance employment opportunities in regional areas.
 - What are the innovative approaches to indigenous justice issues?

- Improving working relations and protocol responsibilities between local government and indigenous communities.
- How does the inclusion of people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds bring vibrancy to our communities?
- Our ageing community and ways in which local government can address the needs.
- Are young people being genuinely incorporated into mainstream Council business or is it only “playtime at the edges”?
- How can we help shape critical and innovative housing policies that will give housing security to lower income households?

5. Is the emphasis on efficiency and corporatisation impacting on local democracy, community development and community services?

- Corporate management and its impact on governance and the leadership role of councils.
- The impacts (benefits and drawbacks) of increased accountability and reporting requirements.
- Needs analysis/needs based funding compared to an increased trend to tendering of community services (benefits and drawbacks).
- Resourcing and supporting community agencies compared to an increased contract management approach to community services delivery.
- Measurement of the community benefit of social programs and the need for a long-term approach.

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 interactive.

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.

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 skill-based 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.

AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT

Requests for audiovisual equipment must accompany your submission. The LGCSAA will make every effort to provide audiovisual equipment that is essential to the program where cost is reasonable.

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 accompanied by the presenter's CV and the names and contact details of two referees.
5. Abstracts should be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word or Rich Text format. Please email to events@lgaq.asn.au by COB on Friday 31 January 2003.
6. Notification of acceptance will take place by email by end of February 2003.
7. Full papers should be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word or Rich Text format. Please email to events@lgaq.asn.au by COB on Friday 10 May 2003.

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.

Recently, the LGCSAA has focused on furthering understanding of good practice and benchmarking in community development, governance and wellbeing indicators. This work has resulted in two publications, "Working Together to Develop Our Communities - Good Practice and Benchmarking in Local Government Community Development and Community Services" and "Just, Vibrant and Sustainable Communities."

2003 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jenny Merkus (President), Moreland City Council
Julie Walder, Townsville City Council
Frank Hornby, Townsville City Council
Damian Ham, Townsville City Council
Desley Renton, LGAQ
Tom Pavlos, City of Swan
Eric Moes, Maroochy Shire Council

CONFERENCE HOST

The Local Government Community Services Association of Queensland (LGCSAQ) is proud to host this Conference.

CONFERENCE ORGANISER



Local Government Association of Queensland
PO Box 2230
Fortitude Valley BC Q 4006
Phone: (07) 3000 2222
Fax: (07) 3252 4473
Email: events@lgaq.asn.au

ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE SITE



Townsville City Council is pleased to be the city host for this Conference.

Townsville is a coastal city situated in North Queensland, Australia and is the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea.

Townsville is the perfect stepping-off point to experience the wonders of the region - the outback, rainforests, magnificent waterfalls, tropical islands and of course, the Great Barrier Reef.

Its many attractions include the world's largest living coral reef aquarium, a wildlife sanctuary, casino, beaches, museum, theatres, galleries and restaurants.

THE VENUE

Jupiters Townsville Hotel is located on the Breakwater Marina, approximately one kilometre from the City Centre, and overlooking Magnetic Island and the imposing Castle Hill.

It is approximately 10 kilometres from Townsville International Airport, and approximately 10 minutes by taxi.

Jupiters Townsville Hotel
Sir Leslie Thies Drive
Townsville Q 4810
Phone: (07) 4722 2333
Fax: (07) 4772 4741

ACCOMMODATION

Jupiters Townsville Hotel boasts 192 spacious rooms and suites, which are beautifully decorated and superbly appointed to ensure that every moment is enjoyable. All rooms have spectacular views towards Magnetic Island or the Breakwater Marina.

There are also many other accommodation options in Townsville to choose from.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on submissions, please contact:

Julie Walder
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Fax: (07) 4771 4133
Email: jxw@townsville.qld.gov.au
Website: www.lgcsaa.org.au

ABSTRACT FORM



Local Government Community Services Association of Australia
National Conference
28 - 30 July 2003
Townsville

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

Author/s: _____

Presenter/s: _____

Theme:

Is integrated community planning a foundation for sustainable communities?

Social Capital - What are the benefits for local communities?

How does the contribution of arts, culture and diversity assist in building vibrant communities?

How can local communities strengthen just outcomes and human rights?

Is the emphasis on efficiency and corporatisation impacting on local democracy, community development and community services?

Format:

Symposium (15 minutes or less)

Workshop (15 minutes or less)

Learning incubator (1.5 hours)

Please return completed form with 350 word Abstract to events@lgaq.asn.au