



# **Come from the Shadows: Active Citizenship in Community-Based Groups**

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## **Outline**

- The challenge
- Active citizenship
- Community-based groups
- Groups and citizenship
- Local government role
- Why it matters



# The Challenge

- The domain
- Civic participation
- Expanding citizenship
- Locational disadvantage
- Challenges



## Recent Research

**Humpage, L. (2005)** *“Building Victorian Communities: Outcomes of the Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre Sector”*  
Centre for Applied Social research, RMIT University

**Landvogt, K. (2004)** *“Transforming Talk in Community-Based Feminist Groupwork”* PhD thesis, University of Queensland

**McDermott, F. (2002)** *“Inside Groupwork: A guide to reflective practice”* Crows Nest NSW: Allen and Unwin

**Permezel, M. (2001)** *“The Practice of Citizenship: Place, Identity and the Politics of Participation in Neighbourhood Houses”*  
PhD thesis, University of Melbourne



# Active Citizenship – What is it?

- Defining citizenship
- Social/active citizenship
- Traditional citizenship and exclusion
- Inclusive active citizenship
- 3-sphere model



## **Community-based Groups – What are they?**

- Learning and support groups
- In neighbourhood houses/learning centres
- Community development
- Processes
- Outcomes



# **Groups and Citizenship – A Fresh Conceptual Framework**

- Both normative and inclusive
- Self-development
- Caring for others
- From private to public
- Expanding options & identities
- Dialogues across difference



# Groups and citizenship, continued

## Social Capital and community-based groups

- Bonding
- Bridging
- Linking



## **A Local Government Role**

- Existing support role
- Implementing a re-investment
- Conceptual framework
- Developmental
- Innovative
- Devolution from State government



## Why It Matters

- Moral/ethical
- Interconnection
- Local government position
- Building a base
- Cost-effective
- Coming from the shadows