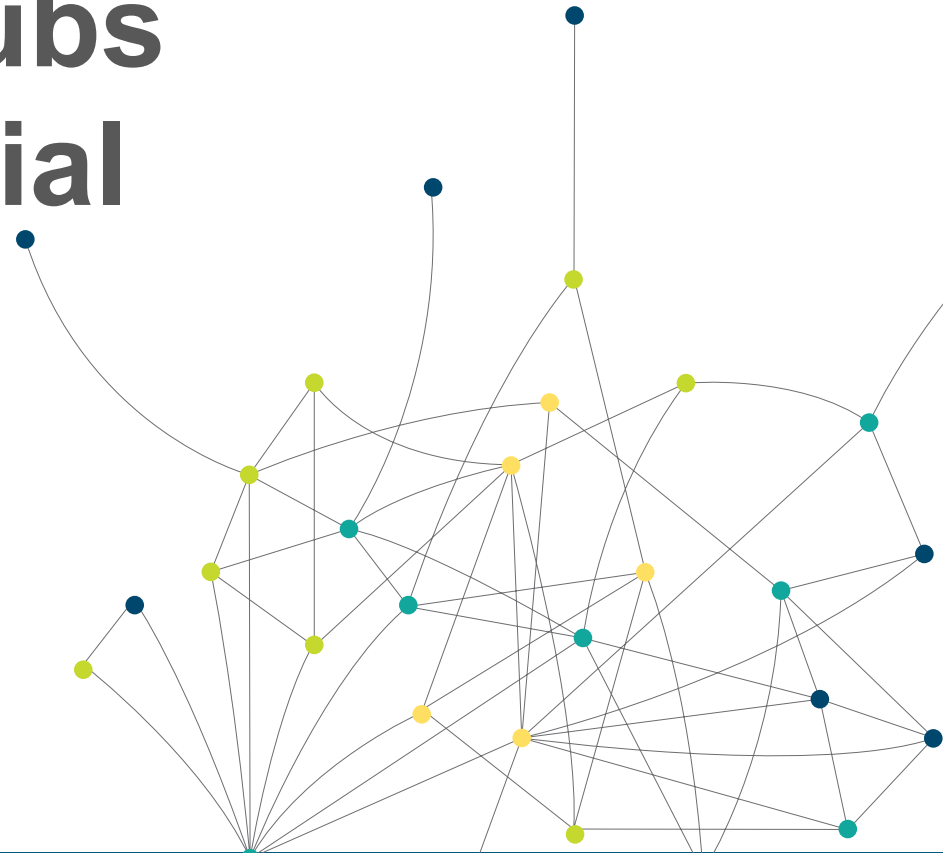


Community Hubs delivering Social Cohesion



Proposition

Importance of the Community Place and Community Development Principles

- This presentation is founded on the proposition that safe, inviting and inclusive places to meet that facilitate the ability to build relationships, develop skills and contribute in a meaningful way, are essential to generating community cohesion and harmony

Definition = Hub

Within this context a hub is a combination of three essential factors:

- It is a physical place that people come to
- It is a range of activities that operate both within the physical hub and out in the community
- It is a network of community members and leaders, service providers and other organisations that enrich the overall hub activity

Interculturalism

- The philosophy of community development forms the basis of effective local community hubs that advance community cohesion
- In today's urbanised world it's impossible to address the challenges of community life without addressing mass migration and super diversity
- Hubs have a role to play in promoting interculturalism as a counter to segregated communities

Momentum for Change

Development Progression

- Social Inclusion (people know each other)
- Social Cohesion (people trust each other)
- Social Productivity (people work together)

Results In

- Community problem solving and creatively initiating
- Environment for active citizenship as a group exercise
- Critical mass within community that enables positive social change

Literature Review

Synopsis:

- **Collaboration:** Working collaboratively with allied services, and maintaining robust referral pathways is likely to enable positive outcomes for community
- **Flexibility:** Hubs with rigid models or whose staff lack the capacity to adapt to the needs of the local community, are less likely to establish robust networks and integration of services
- **Enablement:** Hubs based on community development principles contribute tangibly to community cohesion

Principles of Working

- **Emphasis on relationships**
- **Asset based community development**
- **Ownership**
- **Active Citizenship**
- **Interculturalism**
- **Collaboration**

Place-making

- **Importance of signals** – visual & perceived
- **Sense of ownership** – contributions
- **Place for community conversations**
- **Multifunctional** - flexible and versatile



Volunteer program

- People from diverse backgrounds reach out to diverse groups
- Extends our programs, our reach
- Plays large role in building cross-cultural & inter-generational community cohesion



Active Citizenship - example

Senior's Rally – Community led joint action

- Hub enabled diverse community network to form
- Network self-initiated a community action
- Active citizenship at a group level increased community cohesion



From new migrant to community service

Meadowbank Chinese Community Group

- Place for new migrants to meet each other
- Capacity building through governance and leadership/volunteer training
- Resulted in members running their own self-interest groups and events, inviting other communities
- Created professional Dance Group and band, invited to perform by Councils, Expos
- Encourages cross-cultural collaboration and active community service



From Isolation to Contribution

Men's Group – Volunteer Network and Social Group

- Trust and friendship built
- Asset Mapping and skills sharing
- Volunteer Network and joint projects
- Evolution of the group from isolation to social engagement to community contribution



Positive community change

- Three diverse community groups have moulded together to become a tangible community network that jointly run a monthly community event for the purpose of:
 - engaging new community members
 - sharing cultures
 - promoting access to hub and other services
 - opportunity to contribute to their community
 - initiate new community programs



Chinese Community Dance Group



Men's Group Musicians

Concluding Statement

The Importance of Local Community Hubs



Local community hubs operating on community development principles play a vital role in advancing community cohesion and giving rise to active citizenship as a group activity resulting in positive community owned social change