

Kate Teys

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Kate Teys has a Masters in International and Community Development and over eleven years experience in this field. Six of these were spent at Caritas Australia managing their South East Asia Program, regularly travelling to monitor and evaluate programs and set up new initiatives with local partners. Following this Kate has spent four years in Community Development at Relationships Australia, helping establish their Community Builders Program in the Northern Sydney region and managing their Community Hub in West Ryde. Kate is also the Convenor and Chair of the Intercultural Network - Ryde Area, supported by Ryde Council, consisting of 20+ different services whose joint vision is Social Harmony in Ryde.

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Community Hubs Delivering Social Cohesion

This presentation establishes the value of Community Hubs operating on community development principles and the asset-based approach in achieving Community Cohesion. For 3½ years Relationships Australia has managed three Sydney-based Community Hubs and the anecdotal evidence strongly supports the above proposition. A Formal Evaluation is currently underway to provide a robust evidence base. As such this presentation will be informed by a Literature Review investigating the link between Community Development based Hubs and Social Cohesion and will present significant results in addressing the social challenges outlined in Abstract Topic #5.

The presentation will highlight the place of localism, asset-based community building, interculturalism and collective impact in overcoming deep rooted challenges to Community Cohesion. It will feature the community building achievements of the Ryde Community Hub. It will provide poignant case studies that demonstrate the journey of local people moving from Social Isolation to Volunteer to Community Leader and the associated fostering of new community networks and active citizenship. This presentation supported by the Literature Review and Evaluation Results to hand will present an evidenced based future look at the role of Local Community Hubs in achieving and sustaining Community Cohesion.

