

Social Inclusion Framework.

Introduction

A Social Inclusion Framework aims to identify the broadest cross-section of the new community, the needs or challenges they may face, and how to potentially address these. If there is a Place Committee, involving them in this discussion is highly beneficial as creative ideas are discussed while representatives of different groups and organisations are in the same room.

The first step in the creation of a Social Inclusion Framework is to establish and define all of the various subgroups of the community that need to be considered in the inclusion strategy to ensure no one is 'missed'. Local councils will have

the best knowledge in this area hence why it is important to have a council representative as part of the Place Committee.

Once all of the groups are identified the process can shift to a discussion on how we can start to create an inclusion strategy to better connect the specific groups.

The below table is intended as a starting point to consider different groups in the community and possible inclusion strategies.

Possible Inclusion Strategies

Group



Youth

- Youth mentoring program – developing leaders of tomorrow, an option is partnering keen youth with experienced retired people
- Engage youth in community consultation with activities such as design sessions at the local school, outdoor recreation based consultation and the use of social media
- Have youth-focused creative activities such as dance and hip hop workshops, battle of the bands, graffiti, building, designing etc.
- Use technology, such as the new initiative 'Block by Block' by UnHabitat and Mojang, which involves young people in the planning of urban public spaces using Minecraft as a tool to facilitate this process
- Provide space for youth to engage and hang out, playgrounds are not just for kids, a good example of this is the award-winning Fremantle Esplanade Youth Plaza which offers skating, ping pong, rock-climbing and slacklining
- Create a youth council to enable youth to have a voice in the decision-making process
- Employing different communication methods such as drawing, painting, Lego, visioning exercises (how do you see you in your town in five years?), image picking, mapping etc.



Older generation

- Connecting retirees that may face loneliness with the childcare centre in a 'Nan & Pop' volunteer role to help children that may be lacking strong family support
- Retirees could also be connected and converse with new migrants who are learning English, reducing isolation for both parties
- Use the skills register to enable older people to remain active, or those who need help knowing where to look
- Homeshare programs such as the Wesley Home Share program which matches older people with someone younger to live in and help them rent free
- Create a Men's Shed
- Establish a U3A branch (University of the Third Age)

Group



Young Families

- Ensure that mothers and fathers groups are set up and there is an appropriate space for them to meet
- Create a calendar of community social events that blends kids' activities with more cultural activities to allow more opportunities to interact as a family
- Promote use of websites such as *www.OpenShed.com.au* to all young families to ensure they have access to things needed for recreation and social activities



Single resident dwellings

- Organise a social night for those who live alone to meet people in similar positions in the community and make connections
- Connect people with house sharing websites, encouraging greater social connections



New immigrants

- Identify different cultures and customs, celebrating a variety of foods, flavours and festivals
- Hold cooking classes run by new immigrants and put together a cookbook, such as the Bonnyrigg Multicultural Community Kitchen Recipe Book
- Involve those learning English in a language scheme such as the initiative outlined in Older Generation section
- Different activities such as arts and crafts can help breakdown communication barriers if English is limited
- Create oral history recordings – this contributes to a local history by getting willing community members to share and discuss their history, fostering social connection and tolerance



Sole business traders, contractors, self employed

- Create a business incubation hub, co-work or collaborative spaces
- Create business coffee clubs
- Employ a 'Renew Australia' type set up where spaces that are not yet tenanted can be occupied by artists or new businesses on short term leases
- Set up a Facebook page or a link on the community website for local businesses and job seekers to connect



New residents to the community

- 'New Residents Welcome Pack' which could include maps, emergency contacts, local information & services and vouchers supporting local businesses and community members
- New residents morning tea and meet and greet nights
- Hold annual university style 'O week' events for communities where all of the different community groups, clubs and NGOs can have a stall in the town square to introduce new residents to how they can get involved



Social Service Providers

- Look to attract a range of social service providers to the new town to help where required
- Look to engage with local churches to work with their different social support programs