

Inclusive Community Development Network Meetings - 2017

The Inclusive Community Development Network is a bi-monthly forum which brings together people who are committed to creating a more inclusive society in a spirit of respectful dialogue, who have an interest for a diversity of views and approaches to community development practice.

For those who have been coming along to network meetings you will notice a few changes to our 2017 program. Rather than holding the meetings at VALID, we will be co-hosting the meetings with key organisations who are engaged in community development practice. We will be holding the meetings at the 'home offices' of these organisations. The meetings will include presentations from these organisations as well as speakers who will address topical issues.

We have also changed the times of the meetings which will vary across the 5 sessions to cater for the different needs of people interested in attending.

Finally, we have included 1 regional meeting this year which will be held in Ballarat in September.

The dates for the 2017 network meetings are:

- Wednesday 15 March 2.00pm – 4.30pm - SARU/stART Community Art at Ross House (Haidyn Raismith Room). See info about this network meeting in our Events Calendar.
- Wednesday 10th May 2.00pm – 4.30pm - Arts Access Victoria, 222 Bank Street, South Melbourne. See info about this network meeting in our Events Calendar.
- Wednesday 12 July (Venue, times and meeting agenda to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 13 September 11.am - 2.00pm – Ballarat - Venue, Organisation to be confirmed.
- Wednesday 15 November (Venue, times and meeting agenda to be confirmed).

We will be providing afternoon tea for the first 2 meetings so if you would like to come along can you please RSVP ASAP to paul@valid.com.au

Inclusive Community Development Network Meeting 1 - Wednesday 15th March 2017 2.00pm – 4.30pm SARU/stART/Ross House

Our first meeting on the 15th of March will be with the **Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU)** and stART **Community Art** who are closely associated with the SARU. The network meeting will be held in the Haydyn Raismith Room at Ross House 247 – 251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

Funded by the Victorian Government since 2008, the SARU has been instrumental in developing a range of exciting initiatives to position self advocacy more strategically across both State government programs and the NDIS. This work includes support for the development of new self advocacy groups across Victoria (expansion from 13 to 28 groups); development of the Voice at the Table toolkit, and a range of other resources promoting self advocacy and leadership, and strategies for lobbying and campaigning.

SARU has developed some very creative processes for supporting self advocacy, community education and campaigning which they will share with us.

SARU has also recently received funding from the NDIA for a project informing the development of a preferred national model and approach to resourcing, supporting and strengthening group self advocacy in Australia.

Jackie Ward and Sue Smith from SARU are also the original convenors of **stART Community Art**, a collective of artists who have been involved in a range of community cultural development initiatives focussing on a number of issues. stART uses a range of creative processes to engage in these issues and has developed some exciting projects which capture the voice and stories of project partners and participants. This work includes **Warrior Women** focussing on the stories of women who have experienced breast cancer; **Hidden Lives** which captured the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities who had lived in Victoria's institutions; and the **Pieces** a project run in partnership with the **Life Is....Foundation** which explored the impact on family members of suicide of a child or spouse. Jackie will share some of her experiences working on these projects.

Network Meeting 2 - Wednesday 10th May 2017 2.00pm – 4.30pm at Arts Access Victoria 222 Bank Street, South Melbourne

Our second meeting will be with **Arts Access Victoria (AAV)** at their offices 222 Bank Street, South Melbourne.

Established in 1974, Arts Access Victoria (AAV) has since become the state's leading arts and disability organisation. AAV is dedicated to an ambitious agenda of social, community and artistic transformation for people with disability, the communities in which they live and the arts sector in which they aspire to participate without barriers.

In recent times AAV has embarked on an exciting range of community development and advocacy work which challenges the way communities and government responds to the artistic aspirations of people with disabilities. This includes capacity building work with the arts industry, activism and campaign development, community cultural development initiatives and resource development which empowers people to advocate more effectively for inclusion of the arts in their NDIS planning discussions.

AAV will share a range of insights with us into some of this work – it promises to be a very exciting network meeting which will provoke plenty of ideas for discussion.

