

After conducting research on possible programs and activities to support these solutions; we presented eight approaches to community at our Decide the Right Path Workshop, held 30th August 2017.

# COMMUNITY GOAL: BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECTIONS (SIMILAR TO STREET BY STREET) UNIVERSAL



The Centre for Civil Society, since its establishment in 2007, has brought residents, social innovators, community builders and policy-makers together in several forums to explore how community life in local neighbourhoods can be re-invigorated on a large scale.

This has resulted in the establishment of the Street by Street Project.

The need for social infrastructure at the neighbourhood level, and the life-changing benefits of living in a connected community, have been long proven. However, despite some outstanding exceptions, many Australians live in neighbourhoods that do not offer vibrant opportunities for neighbours to do things with and for each other. Neighbourhood groups and the processes of community development are not new. Around the world and around Australia there are wonderful examples of communities coming together to create meaningful opportunities for sharing, laughing, learning, supporting and helping one another in their day to day lives. The Street by Street model offers a framework to make it easier for people to build local connections and develop a greater sense of community.

The Centre for Civil Society's vision is that all over Australia, people will connect with their neighbours, help one another and make amazing things happen, street by street.

Involvement in Street by Street neighbourhood groups is expected to:

- \* Strengthen relationships between neighbours
- \* Make a positive difference to the lives of neighbours who participate
- \* Increase social and practical support amongst neighbours
- \* Contribute to safer, healthier and more connected communities

Everyone benefits from community life – older people can stay in their homes longer if neighbours give them a hand, people with a disability are included, people with a social life suffer less from depression and social isolation and safety is improved when neighbours look out for you and your property. As neighbours get to know one another through simple, regular social gatherings, they find common interests and concerns. People help one another, friendships may form, kids find playmates, matters affecting the area are shared and the group may take on projects of interest to members.

## An example from South Fremantle Precinct:

The South Fremantle Precinct was restarted in 2013 and has been involved in a number of key activities. Pizza Fiesta: The group organised a community picnic in a local park. A local bakery supplied 50 1m long pizzas which were shared by residents. Local musicians both amateur and professional played at the event. The local school ran a cake stall which raised nearly \$1000 for the school. Community groups provided information about themselves on information boards and a local environment group ran a verge competition to encourage residents to convert their nature strips to natives. The group also collected suggestions for ways to improve the local shopping area, which had been identified by Precinct members as a priority. They are now working with the local Council on draft plans to improve this area.

## Community goals advanced with this approach:

- ✓ Child Health – peer to peer support
- ✓ Isolation – connection with neighbours making streets more welcoming
- ✓ Safety – getting to know your neighbours, building community and building capacity
- ✓ Financial strain – low cost to trial and no or low cost to participate

## Resources required:

- \* Coordinators to identify who wants to get started and then support community members in planning etc.
- \* Link in with Neighbour Day and apply for funding
- \* Skilled volunteer to develop grant application
- \* Link in with Community Development Officers in City of Cockburn and City of Kwinana

## Implementation scale:

1. Ready – Working Group co-design implementation
2. Modification/training required
3. Trial to inform funding/system change
4. Funding to conduct trial
5. System change to conduct trial