

Community Building in Practice: the Victorian Government's Boards of Management training for rural health services

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COMMUNITY BUILDING: NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH AGENDA

- Healthy Horizons Principles for implementation of goals
- Acknowledge community building:

Social capability and the physical capacity to plan and implement local programs are required for communities to improve and maintain their health.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Community Building Initiative 2001
- New Department for Victorian Communities

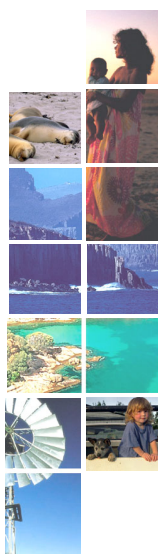
DEPARTMENT FOR VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES

Core Objectives:

- Growing social capital
- Partnerships with local government and community groups
- Helping communities take control of their own futures

FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Capacity Building
- Building partnerships
- Recognition and inclusion of local knowledge



CAPACITY BUILDING

- A strategy for achieving community building
- Building skills
- Forming networks
- Focus on individuals, communities, organisations

KEY ACTION AREAS FOR BUILDING CAPACITY

- Agency/ system infrastructure
- Program maintenance and sustainability
- Problem solving capability of organisations and communities

ELEMENTS OF CAPACITY BUILDING

- Organisational development
- Workforce development
- Resource allocation
- Leadership
- Partnership

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

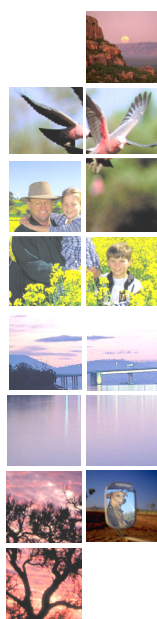
Within bureaucracies there is also an urgent need to learn how to work in partnership with rural and regional communities

Partnerships will not develop constructively if resources are not allocated. (Growing and Learning in Rural Communities 2000:16)

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

The role of government would be to develop structures that are inclusive of local knowledge and expertise. (Growing And Learning in Rural Communities 2000:41)

- Acknowledged and supported in community building
- Strengthened and developed in capacity building



PROJECT STATUS

- Selection process completed
- Contract finalised
- Ministerial launch and announcement planned for April 2003
- Preliminary evaluation at the next conference

