



Community Development Strategy 2020 – 2023

Reporting July – December 2021

Building Australia's
best regional community







Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Measures of Success	3
Priority 1: Inclusion	4
Priority 2: Participation	6
Priority 3: Accessible	8
Priority 4: Connectivity	10

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country and Our Vision for Reconciliation

Bundaberg Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, and recognises the cultural diversity of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We are committed to creating innovative opportunities by building stronger relationships, mutual respect and encouraging cultural practices that strengthen and support harmony between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community.

Council values the input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in decision-making processes at a local level and encourages their active participation.

Acknowledgement of Contribution

We would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the community, businesses, community sector and Council staff who contributed to the consultation process and the development of this strategy.

Reporting July – December 2021

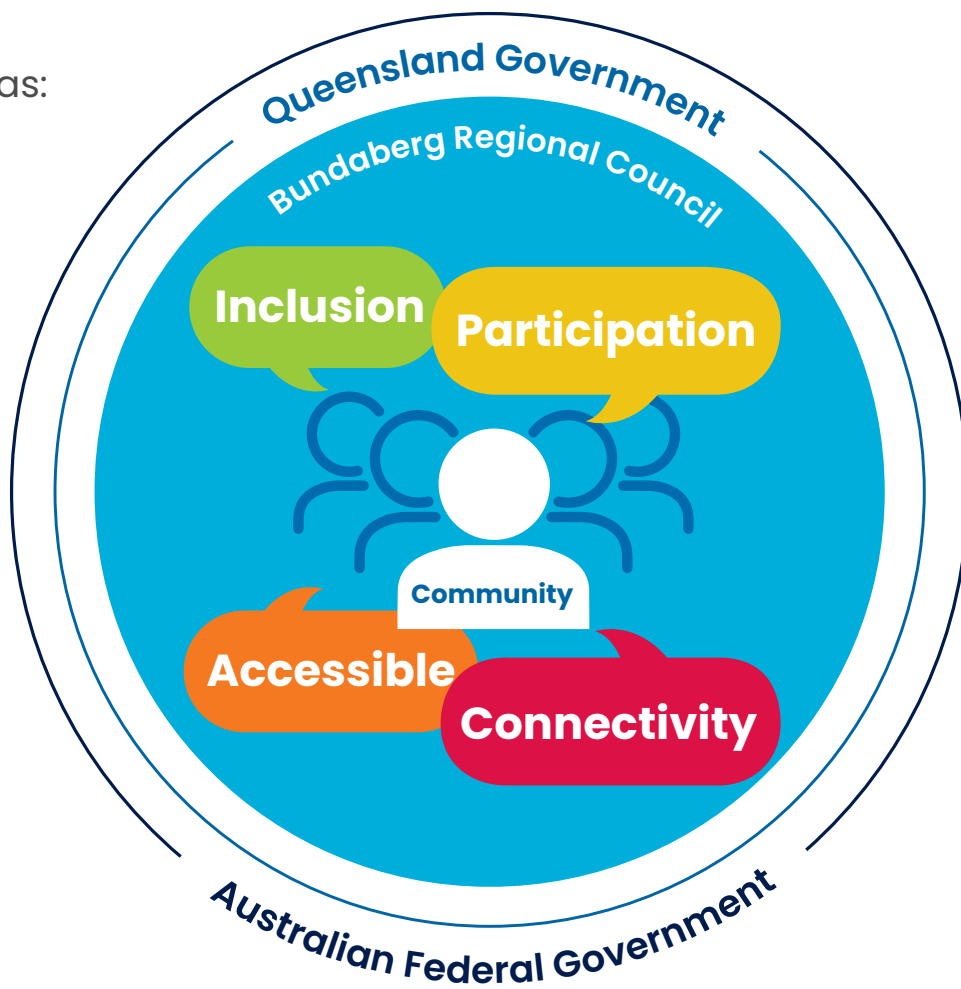
Community Development in local government is defined as enabling communities to develop active, sustainable and supportive environments in which people live, work, play and invest.

The recent development of the Bundaberg Regional Council Community Development Strategy reflects the Region's priorities for wellbeing; focusing on improvement in the quality of the community in terms of health, happiness, wellbeing and security.

With the advent of COVID-19, community development (CD) across the Region adjusted their interaction with the community to suit the

restrictions on face-to-face communication. Network meetings were conducted via zoom and teams whilst opportunities were taken to deepen and build respectful relationships with community organisations and business via alternative modes of communication. CD has built a flexible approach to communications, as future activities will be altered according to legislation and regulation.

Priority areas:



Success measures





Childers Read to Me Day 2021

Priority one:

Inclusion

A community that is inclusive, involved and engaged. We value and respect the contribution of all community members, without bias of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and cultural background.

Actions

1.1 Maintain a community engagement model

- In late 2019, Community Development secured a Thriving Cohesive Communities Grant of \$43,000 to pilot a project, 'Our People Our Stories'. Community consultations were held across the Region culminating in the development of 50 postcards with a photo and description of people's journeys through their lives. Aimed at individuals and groups, the project highlighted the more diverse and unique characters that live, work and play in our community.
- Community Development provided activities for all ages and abilities at **Options Day** to maintain a community engagement model of practice for people with disability, their family, friends and carers. This event promotes inclusion and access to support services. Participants can access services in a safe and non-judgmental environment.
- Each year, Gin Gin and Childers Neighbourhood Centres promote a community-led **Christmas Hamper Appeal** and **Community Christmas Lunch** to address identified gaps and barriers in the community. Working with local church groups, community groups and businesses to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities. Everyone joins in to assist families that need a helping hand.

1.2 Support people who feel isolated to build stronger connections

- The Bundaberg Region Seniors Alliance in partnership with Bundaberg Regional Council developed a very successful forum for the seniors community of Bundaberg. The event was an opportunity for seniors to meet over morning tea, learn new interesting information and generally have a lovely morning upskilling their knowledge.
- An annual **Community Christmas Lunch and Cent Sale** is held in Childers to engage our isolated and vulnerable community members. The event provides an opportunity for community to connect with others and make lasting relationships at a time of year when people are the most susceptible due to isolation from family and friends.

1.3 Promote a solutions-based mindset

- The **It Takes a Village! Housing and Homelessness Forum**, in partnership with Regional Housing, promoted a solutions-based mindset and fostered community participation. It provided an advocacy opportunity as the community was invited to share their insights to identify gaps and influence positive change within the broader Council and community sector. There was a focus on supporting community inclusion, interaction and cohesion through education and involvement. There was

also an intention to increase awareness of access to support services for people who are at risk of homelessness.

- The **Amazing Shake** is a school-based initiative instilling manners in young children by practicing greeting adults in a formal manner. Commencing in Grade 4, etiquette training opens doors to further education, social acceptance, employment and so forth. Children are taken through a succession of exercises, marked on their outcomes and awarded accordingly. Community Development and other organisation's act as judges.
- By identifying Early Literacy as a significant area of vulnerability in the Isis area, the Childers **Read to Me Day** was established. The project is aimed at increasing family awareness of the need to engage young children in reading prior to school entry. A whole of community event is held based on an annual theme. Businesses, schools, early childhood services, community are all involved and provide exciting reading spaces along with volunteers to engage young children and families.
- Attending a Bundaberg Community Consultation Workshop on preventing youth sexual violence and abuse with 18 community and government organizations was an opportunity for CDO's to influence and co-design outcomes needed to address this community concern in a wholistic approach.

1.4 Promote inclusion and participation within the community

- **International Day of People with Disability** is an annual celebration that raises awareness by challenging the way the community thinks about disability. A sausage sizzle in Bundaberg's CBD, activities for people with disability to enjoy and some giveaways; badges and a fold out Chatterbox attracted conversations from the Bundaberg community.
- The Bundaberg **Seniors Forum** was open to people over 50, their carers and family to attend. This event promoted inclusion and information sharing with a focus on wellbeing.
- **Knock your socks off!** Project provided an opportunity for young designers of the Region to submit a design for socks. The three winners received Bundaberg Now accolades, social media promotions and 100 socks printed for distribution to their family and friends.
- Neighbourhood Centres in Childers and Gin Gin hold **bi-monthly Interagency meetings** which engage organisations, service providers and community groups to share service information, identify and address community needs.

Bundaberg:

140 attendees

to

It Takes a Village! Housing & Homelessness Forum

Childers:

Read to Me Day
attracted

370 attendees

from across the region

- 13 schools and early
childhood services
participated on the day.

Over

130 attendees

to the

Community Christmas Lunch

and

Hampers to families in need

Gin Gin:

36 attendees

to the

Community Christmas Lunch in partnership with Kolan Community Options



Aunty Marina, Cr Wayne Honor and Aunty Amy Appo at the Gin Gin NAIDOC flag raising ceremony

Priority two:

Participation

A community that encourages and enables participation socially and professionally valuing both individual and community centric roles. The community will be supported with tools, resources and opportunities to enable participation and build resourcefulness and resilience.

Actions

2.1 Community sector engagement and participation

- **Flourish Family Fun Day** is an annual event that provides an opportunity to bring families together in a community celebration 'Welcome Baby Celebration' to welcome all the new babies to the Bundaberg Region in the preceding 12 months. This year's event attracted an overwhelming 250 babies registered to receive packs, 2000 family members, friends and carers and 37 stall holders. Hosted on a perfect July day, sunny and mild, people lined up at stalls, waiting their turn, enjoying the social occasion. Council were excited to receive feedback that 97% of people who attended felt better informed of what services were available in the community.
- **Seniors Forum** activities are designed to encourage full participation within our community. This event was promoted far and wide to attract registration for the event and hear straight from the experts regarding various topics of their interest. Surveys were designed to capture information to better understand the needs of attendees to facilitate through a client centred approach.
- Community groups, families, service providers and key stakeholders were invited to celebrate the **Gin Gin Community Hub's first birthday celebration**. This event offered families a chance have fun, connect and dress up at circus characters. This provided an opportunity to increase community connectedness, link the community to services that are available, reduce isolation and encourage community participation.

2.2 Pathway programs

- Bundaberg Region Council hosts **Options Day** annually. Celebrating its eighth year, Options Day is an event aimed at opening paths to skills and education for people living with disability. This event included free entry and sausage sizzle,

games, activities, music and entertainment. Disability friendly service provider stalls shared their information and contributed with engaging activities. It was a fun and educational day for people of all abilities, their family, friends and carers.

- The **Bundaberg Regional Council Community Grants Program** is promoted across the Region to small groups and clubs on a bi-annual basis. The Grants Program is an opportunity for development of recipients skills and knowledge base so that applying for external grants is empowered from the first steps of Councils grants program.
- Neighbourhood Centres provide **free computer access** to community members. Volunteers and staff are available to assist with supporting usage and to help build knowledge, confidence and independence.

2.3 Culture participation

- **'Our People Our Stories'** brought people from different cultural backgrounds into a non-judgmental and safe space where the participants were able to share their personal stories. Photos of participants were taken in their national dress or in places they felt reflected who they were, providing an insight into their cultural and social normal.
- The **It Takes a Village! Housing and Homelessness Forum**, in partnership with Regional Housing, was designed to facilitate partnerships with key community groups, including local Indigenous Elders in order to embrace cultural diversity and increase social connectedness. Feedback forms were designed to capture information to assess attendee satisfaction, gather information about the perceived gaps or barriers in relation to housing stress and homelessness in our community.
- **NAIDOC Week** signals NAIDOC Family Fun Day of which Council partners with Libraries to provide handouts of Council services but also an opportunity for the community to try the Virtual Reality goggles. Showcasing services including the Libraries, Moncrieff Theatre and so forth attracts a number of participants.

Bundaberg:

97% attendees

to

Flourish Family Fun Day
felt better informed after
the event.

340 participants

in the

**Our People
Our Stories project**
across the region

Childers:

23 stallholders

62 attendees

from the community
at the

50+ Lifestyle Expo

Gin Gin:

200 attendees

at the

**Gin Gin Community
Hub First Birthday
Celebration**





Cr Tracey McPhee at R U OK? Day 2021, Bundaberg CBD

Priority three:

Accessible

Priority outcome: A community that enables safe and accessible spaces. A safe, active and healthy lifestyle for all with the provision of spaces that are responsive to the needs of the community.

Actions

3.1 Support a coordinated approach to future proofing the Region

- Residents in our community, various levels of government and service providers have expressed their **concern over a lack of affordable housing in our region** along with community concern with the increased visibility of the homeless. The **'It Takes a Village! Housing and Homelessness Forum'**, in partnership with Regional Housing, provided an opportunity to advocate for change. The morning session of the forum was promoted through social media, Bundaberg Now, ABC Radio and Bundaberg Today.
- Childers Neighbourhood Centre, in partnership with Childers Men's Shed and Country Women's Association Childers Branch, have been successful in a funding application to provide **'ONE pot wonders'** cooking project. This project is aimed at community members who have little or no cooking skills who wish to learn some basic skills in the kitchen.

3.2 Build the community sector responsiveness

- **International Day of People with a Disability**, an annual event, was hosted in BRAG Park, located in the central business district with complete accessibility. Collaboration with service providers; Access. Rec., Centacare, Impact Community Services, Bundaberg Regional Housing and Steps Group all of whom have disability provision as their core business. To raise awareness in the general community, Sunrise Rotary cooked a BBQ Sausage Sizzle, and the group participants hosted art activities and games to attract attention.
- The **Seniors Forum** was an opportunity to work collaboratively to provide information relevant to improving quality of life outcomes for Seniors and encourage place based-activities in our community.
- The Community Development Team promoted **R U OK? Day** across the region through place-based pop-up stalls in Bundaberg, Gin Gin and Childers. Staff worked with local service providers

to have conversations which encourage local residents to start a conversation with others by asking 'are you okay?' and provide information on how to seek assistance when needed.

- **Early Educator** meetings are held in both Childers and Gin Gin quarterly. Meetings are made up of services who provide care and education for young people including schools, health care, kindergartens, family support and childcare. Community needs are identified along with strategies to address these. Recently a flyer was developed to provide families with a list of all playgroups held in the Hinterland to help connect families to this service. Playgroups are held through the Child and Family Program, Schools and community groups.

3.3 Encourage safe, active and healthy lifestyles

- **Options Day** activities encouraged safe, active and healthy lifestyle outcomes. This event was promoted through social media and service providers within the sector; encouraging their clients to attend the event. The working committee was sourced through the All Abilities Alliance network meeting group. A strong focus was placed on ensuring stall holders provided fun activities that engaged attendees so they could learn more about available support services.
- **Information sessions** held in Childers on how to boost your Immunity, prostate care and 50+ lifestyle expo focused on providing information to encourage healthy lifestyle choices and maintain personal health and care.

Bundaberg:

Over **200 attendees** were welcomed to **Seniors Forum** including

- **Local residents**
- **Community group representatives, presenters and volunteers.**

Childers:

Playgroups attendance

30 families

in Gin Gin

61 families

in Childers



Gin Gin:

R U OK Day morning tea and chat

attended by

- **Local community groups**
- **Hospital staff**
- **Mental Health practitioners**
- **Business owners**
- **Councillors and other stakeholders**



Flourish Family Fun Day 2021, Boreham Park

Priority four:

Connectivity

Priority outcome: A community that supports each other through connectivity to services and information. Understanding the community needs and facilitating the connection with the community sector through referrals, events and content.

Actions

4.1 Improve education sharing

- **Flourish Family Fun Day** provides a non-judgmental and safe environment for families, their friends and grandparents to access information from over 35 stalls. Hosted in Boreham Park to encourage families to access this wonderful family friendly park has proved most successful over the preceding 6 years.
- The **Bundy Region Connect** newsletter promotes family friendly community activities to a diverse range of the community via an online portal. Distributing information about community organisations and their services, venue hire and the Bundaberg Regional Councils community grants program.
- **Gin Gin Intergenerational Meet Up** was held in October at Kolan Community Park, adjacent to the Gin Gin Community Hub. People aged ninety years down to newborns attended. The seniors and families enjoyed morning tea, along with a variety of engaging activities that all ages could play. Seniors read stories to the children, painted, and played games and shared learning opportunities together.

- Neighbourhood Centres provide bi-monthly newsletters to the local community and maintain a localised facebook page which is used to communicate events, projects, program updates and information on what is happening in the local area. It also provides information about community groups and services.

4.2 Strengthen community ties with Council representatives

- **Flourish Family Fun Day** provides an opportunity for the Mayor and Councillors to interact with families. The Mayor makes a speech and the Councillors assist to distribute the Welcome Baby Celebration Signed Certificates and a small gift. As over 250 babies receive acknowledgement this represents a large sector of parents and grandparents.

4.3 Promote a community approach to combating societal issues

- **Hinterland Community Christmas Hamper Appeal** provides an opportunity for community, businesses, churches and organisations to dig deep and donate non-perishable food items and gifts to be handed out to families in need, who are doing it tough over the Christmas period. Over 20 hampers were distributed to community members.
- **It Takes a Village! Housing and Homelessness Forum**, in partnership with Regional Housing, promoted a community approach to combating societal issues and informed residents about local support services. The Community Development team worked collaboratively with Regional Housing limited, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and other service providers to address needs for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community in a safe environment. Councilors and Council staff attended this event which strengthened ties with members of our community.

4.4 Strengthen partnerships which build community capacity

- Childers Neighbourhood Centre has partnered with Childers Men's Shed and Country Women's Association Childers Branch to write and submitted a funding application for the **"ONE pot wonders"** Men's cooking classes. Classes will be facilitated by members of the Men's Shed and CWA to encourage participants to prepare and cook healthy nutritional meals at home. Guest speakers will provide information on health, nutrition and exercise to help improve overall health and wellbeing.
- **Options Day** is an event that encourages social connectedness and improves education sharing. This event builds networks by working collaboratively with service providers to address needs for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community in a safe environment. Councilors attended this event which strengthened ties with members of our community in an informal setting.
- The **Seniors Forum** encouraged social connections, linkages to service providers and improved knowledge on various topics. This event built networks by working collaboratively with service providers to address the needs of the elderly by informing on topics that are important for safe and healthy living.

Bundaberg:

500 people attended



with **98%** reporting they felt **better informed** about how to access services after attending the event

Childers:

Provided

550 newsletters emailed

187 newsletters mailed

729 followers

Gin Gin:

58 people

attended the **Gin Gin Intergenerational Meet Up** at Kolan Community Park

- **Seniors in the community**
- **Gin Gin Early Years Playgroup**
- **Gin Gin State School year 6 class and teachers.**





1300 883 699
bundaberg.qld.gov.au

