



Community Development Strategy 2020 – 2023

Reporting January – June 2022

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.

Community Development Strategy 2020 – 2023: Reporting January – June 2022

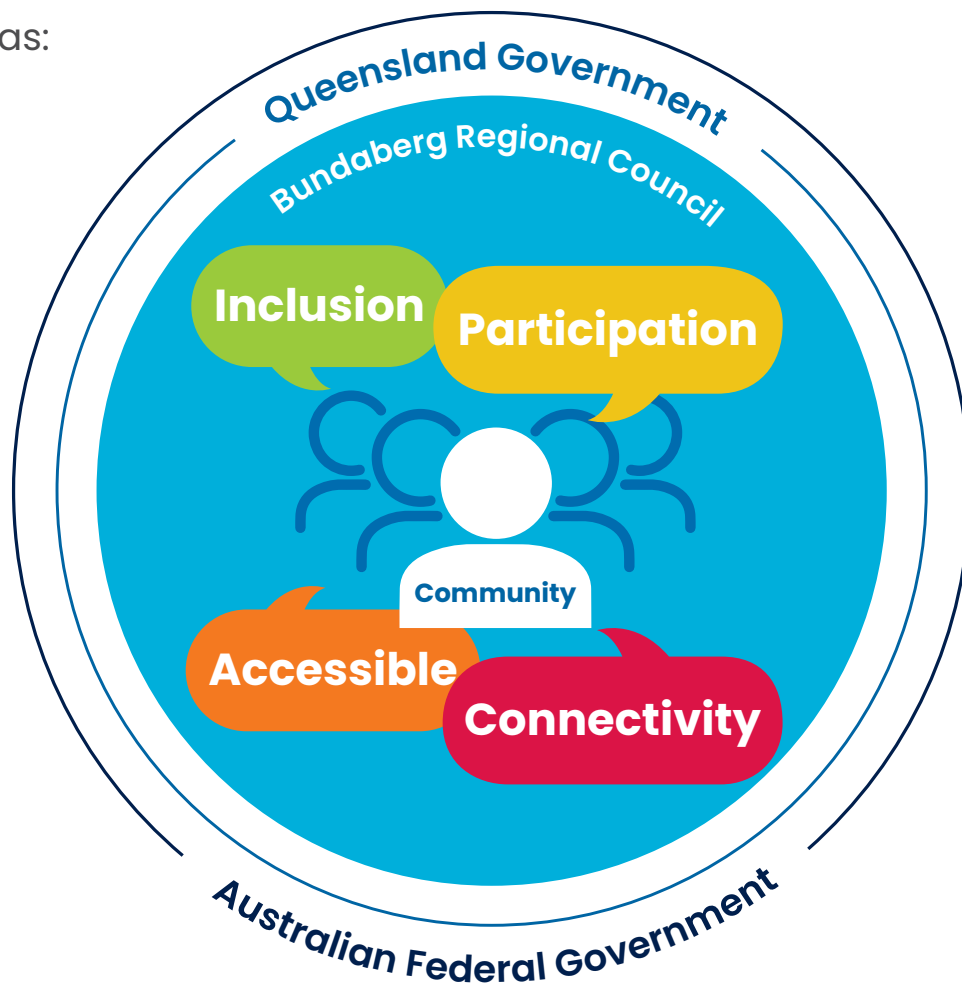
Community Development in local government is defined as enabling communities to develop active, sustainable and supportive environments in which people live, work, play and invest.

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:



Measures of Success



Priority one:

Inclusion

Priority outcome: 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

- Bundaberg Regional Council facilitates a Community Grant Program whereby small groups and clubs apply for up to \$1000 grants available 12 months of the year and up to \$5000 three times a year. Community Development provides three Grants Workshops across the Region in the first half of the year. Due to shortage of staff (COVID) the January workshop was postponed, however the May workshop provided instruction to over 48 participants from 32 diverse small groups and clubs. The objective of the Grants workshops is to upskill grant applicants for the June Round of Community Grants.
- Community Development facilitated the production and erecting of signage through a collaboration with the All Abilities Alliance for the Autism Awareness Month campaign.
- Community Development also worked with the Learning Disability initiative whereby a morning tea was held in a local café and participants were invited to join the community in celebrating the achievements of people with disability.
- International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. Childers Neighbourhood Centre and Isis District High School hold an annual community breakfast with a guest speaker to engage and speak to the years theme. Gin Gin Neighbourhood and Gin Gin Bowls Club also held their annual IWD breakfast with 40 people attending the event on the day
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood supported Autism Awareness Month with 22 people attending a morning tea while listening to guest speakers. 6 people identified themselves as carers and self-referred to support services on this day

1.2 Support people who feel isolated to build stronger connections

- Support the Girls Australia are a not-for-profit organisation engaged to facilitate a bra gifting event to 60 rural women, wives and mothers of farmers who have experienced major drought, flood, cyclone and fire. The bra gifting was accompanied with presentations on suicide prevention, breast and women's health at both Bundaberg and Childers venues.
- These events provided an opportunity for residents of the Park to socialise outside in a safe environment and build connections with neighbours. Council Officers also encouraged

the participants to identify how Council might value add to participation opportunities, access to information, what Councils resources are available and where to find information on events and activities.

- Ran Harmony Week Café events to encourage inter-cultural connection and opportunity for the multicultural community to socialise.
- Childers Neighbourhood Centre partnered with Qld Country Women's Association Childers Branch to hold their annual Biggest Morning Tea. The morning tea provides an opportunity for the community to come together to not only raise awareness and funds for Qld Cancer Council but to connect and engage with each other in an informal environment.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood ran weekly social programs including Tai Chi, Card Group and Craft to encourage people to make new friendships and build stronger connections.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood hosted two macrame craft workshops with 22 people attending. Participants learnt new skills, made new connections and reduced social isolation.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood hosted a rock painting workshop that was facilitated by a local artist with 29 young people and families attending.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood supported the newly formed Gin Gin Circle Unity Drummers to host a community drumming workshop. 10 people attended to learn about the origins of drumming whilst experiencing joyful sounds and community connections.

1.3 Promote a solutions-based mindset

- Community Services Grants Program workshops were facilitated across Bundaberg, Childers and Gin Gin. Providing small groups and clubs to capacity building opportunity and encourage an increase in applications to council and external grants. Promoting a solutions-based mindset within these groups/clubs, an opportunity to foster goal development and produce tangible outcomes across the community.
- CD Bundaberg consulted the community sporting clubs across the region to identify common trends, issues and barriers in reference to inclusion and social capital development. This ongoing consultation is aimed at promoting cultural diversity, providing advice and build capacity of the sporting community towards positive changes.
- Developed a working group around the Sleepbus project to build awareness and response to homelessness in Bundaberg.

- The ONE Pot Wonders cooking classes held in Childers provides community members with little or no cooking skills to learn some basic skills in the kitchen with support from members of the Childers Men's Shed, Country Women's Association Childers Branch and Childers Neighbourhood Centre. Participants have been cooking up a storm of main meals and desserts, which they can reproduce at home themselves. Two more workshops will be run with a graduation cooking session to complete the year. A cookbook will be produced with the recipes used for the participants.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood listened to community feedback when families asked for more opportunities for children to connect, learn and be active. Fastplant Skateboarding provided a Learn to Skate workshop with 60 young people and their families attending the 2 hour afternoon workshop.

1.4 Promote inclusion and participation within the community

- Flourish Family Fun Day is the largest family friendly and intergenerational oriented expo for community organisations and businesses in the Region. The event encourages vulnerable families who struggle to engage with services/ organisations to access support out of their homes on winters school break. Providing a safe and non-judgemental environment outside. Hosted in centrally located Boreham Park, an open space with new water play, tower and trampoline. This year's event attracted over 2500 people. The Welcome Baby registrations exceeded 150 with 137 babies presenting on the day with their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends and colleagues. The Welcome Baby Celebration encourages high attendance of family members and promotes a sense of belonging for the community present.
- Across the region staff attended numerous informal community group gatherings, including the Central Bundaberg Men's Shed, South Sea Islander Welcome BBQ – to strengthen community relationships.
- A funding application was made on behalf of the Youth Development Action Team to provide a Queensland Mental Health Week (QMHW) project, 'Our Stories Our Community'. The project aims to build awareness of mental health, fostering inclusion of vulnerable individuals by encouraging responses about their experience, and promote positive feedback from community to break down the stigma surrounding mental health. While also constructing a sense-of-belonging for the vulnerable participants.
- A further funding application was made to host a series of interactive and creative workshops across Bundaberg, Childers and Gin Gin for family and friends of individuals experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence. Workshop presentations will cover healthy relationships, financial resources, tenancy rights and finding suitable housing, and domestic and family violence. Participants will also be encouraged to contribute to a short Q&A video building awareness of Domestic and Family Violence.

Bundaberg

Councils in the **Community Grants Program**

\$90,000 distributed over

to **small groups and clubs**

from **July 2021 to June 2022**

\$18,000

in **external applications** were made for grants

15 inclusive events were led by **Community Development**

Childers

10 participants

engaged with the

ONE Pot Wonders cooking classes

42 people

attended the

International Women's Day breakfast

Gin Gin

60 young people and their families

attended the **Fastplant Learn to Skate** session in April

40 people

attended the

International Women's Day breakfast



Gin Gin Family Frolics Fun Day 2022, Gin Gin State School

Priority two:

Participation

Priority outcome: 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

- People living in caravan parks are either permanent, transient or crisis residents. As a result of this many residents struggle to feel included in the broader community and maintain a fringe lifestyle mentality. They are often isolated and experience multiple complex barriers to services. Council Community Development Officers provided BBQ's in five caravan parks, capturing information regarding gaps and barriers to services that residents were experiencing. This provided an opportunity for information to be shared, and a broad distribution of service provider information reached people who would not normally have access.
- The Community Development unit participated in network meetings across multiple areas (seniors, multicultural, youth, disability, homelessness and housing, family and babies, and interagency). This is a fundamental component for collaboration, information sharing and identify gaps in the community.
- Community Development coordinated the redevelopment of a youth services network, 'Community Youth Collective'. Previous networks broke down with effects of COVID-19 forming a gap in the youth space. These linkages within the community sector were able to be maintained.
- A Teddy Bears picnic was held at the Childers Historical Society Complex to celebrate under 5's. This event was open to all community with a focus on family connection, literacy and children having fun. There was a Teddy Bear competition for the young ones to show case their favourite teddies, games, art and craft activities and a special reading section for children to read to their teddies.
- Gin Gin held their first Family Frolics Fun Day since May 2019. Over 320 people attended the day including children, families, service providers and community. The family fun day was a collaborative project between Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre, Child and Family Support Service. Families were able to ask questions and access information and resources for kindergarten and early education, animal therapy, disability support, NDIS, counselling services, health, family support and build health relationships with emergency services.

2.2 Pathway programs

- Community development supported an individual in undertaking work experience towards completion of Certificate III in Community Services. The individual worked across Bundaberg, Gin Gin and Childers offices, giving them the opportunity to engage with diverse staff, community groups, residents and participate in numerous programs, and events.
- Community grants workshops are constructed to provide the basics in making Grant Applications. To enable small groups and clubs to build their capacity and increase membership, opportunities for accessing new knowledge will then lead to applications made to external funding bodies. Bringing funding into the Region in turn enhances the health and wellbeing across the Region residents.
- CD promoted a multitude of community support providers and training organisations through networks and email chains on a daily basis.

2.3 Culture participation

- CD Officers attended the Bundaberg Neighbourhood Centre's annual 'Culture Bites' in celebration of Harmony Week. Council attended to support the activity and to engage in dialogue with the culturally diverse attendees to discuss barriers, gaps or positive initiatives occurring in the community.
- To celebrate cultural diversity for Harmony Week, Community Development ran two events at Oodies Café and The Windmill Bargara Café. The events provided performances (music & dance) from local cultural groups and individuals, providing an opportunity to share cultural diversity in the Bundaberg community and build inter-cultural social connectedness.
- Inclusive of the above, the CD unit in collaboration with BRC Cultural Officer, interact and support cultural initiatives. CD were involved in Morning Tea with the Aunties, NAIDOC Day, Multicultural Advisory Group, Cultural Connections working group, Welcome BBQ for seasonal workers and National Sorry Day.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood supported Gin Gin Multicultural Group and their Annual Harmony Dinner celebrations. 80 people attended the dinner and were encouraged to bring along a plate to share from their culture. Live performances by the Tongan community, Filipino community and French community were observed before karaoke. The dinner encompasses the message everyone belongs and is inclusive of everyone in the community.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood observed the Anniversary of National Apology through a community cultural display within the hub space. A community picnic was held on the Saturday by Wandj Aboriginal Group.

Bundaberg

supported



of
trainee
work
experience

over

3400 people
were engaged with in
June 2022

Childers

more than **50**
community and
council members
attended the
Teddy Bears
Picnic

Gin Gin

320 attendees
at the
Gin Gin Family Frolics
Fun Day and

80 attendees
at the
Annual Gin Gin
Multicultural
Dinner



2022 Youth Week Colour Run, Bargarra

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

- The 2022 Seniors Roadshow was held in partnership with the Queensland Police Service. Due to the lessening restrictions of COVID 19, residents are keen to attend activities and events. This project was developed to address the changes in legislation, medical considerations, alternative transport options, caravan and towing tips and a road rules quiz. Delivered with guest presenters from the Transport and Main Roads, Royal Automobile Assoc. of Queensland, Bundaberg Motor Group and Bundaberg Rehab and Mobility Scooters. Hosted at two venues, Palm Lakes resort and the Multiplex this event attracted over 200 participants.
- Key stakeholders were engaged to form a Housing and Homelessness working group with the aim to fund \$100,000 for a Sleepbus. A long-term resource for the region and a major future-proofing project, assisting with the burden of homelessness on services and provide some of the region's most vulnerable a safe place to sleep. The Sleepbus will additionally provide an educational resource to be used across the region to engage schools and groups to learn more about homelessness to build a proactive community.
- Neighbourhood Centres provide a safe space for community to access and seek support, advice and referral to appropriate services. Resources

are provided to our most vulnerable community members such as Dignity bags, Donated knitted/crochet blankets, information bags, newsletters.

- Gin Gin Neighbourhood Community Food Pantry provides non-perishable food items for those experiencing food insecurity and poverty. Community and Businesses are encouraged to donate what they can and take what they need. Bundaberg Regional Council supported this initiative by holding a Council wide pantry drive and donations were collected and given to the food pantry in Gin Gin.

3.2 Build the community sector responsiveness

- The CD unit highlighted the current rising issue of homelessness and identified the Sleepbus project, subsequently forming the working group.
- CD undertake Grants workshops across the Region in Gin Gin, Childers and Bundaberg. These bi-annual workshops aim to upskill community members to develop confidence in applying for Council Grants as a stepping stone to access larger philanthropic grant providers. Small groups and clubs have a diverse range of projects and the grants workshops are an opportunity to discuss strategies for grant applications.
- Hinterland Neighbourhood Centres continue to service individuals and families through a federally funded emergency relief program. Financial

assistance and referrals to appropriate services in a safe and no-judgemental environment were delivered.

- LifeFlight facilitated a free community workshop at the Neighbourhood Centre to provide essential time critical skills for community when responding to trauma's and help is still on the way. 21 people attended this workshop and gained valuable skills for people who live rurally and remote.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood partnered with Community Bank Gin Gin to present a Scam Awareness session for all of community to attend. The workshop delivered valuable advice on how to detect and protect against scams. Resources from ACCC and Scamwatch were provided to everyone that attended.

3.3 Encourage safe, active and healthy lifestyles

- 'The Youth Week Colour Run' was an event that fostered social connections, and positive health and well-being with 181 participants taking part in the fun thanks to Community Development. To further support the community, the CD unit provided packs, including educational information on waste & recycling, local service information and promoting other community activities. This event also provided the opportunity for the community to volunteer to help marshal the course.
- Community Development lead the grand opening of the recently upgraded Walla Street Skate Park in the June-July school holidays. Council gained the services of the Australian Skateboarding Community Initiative to manage the day's events, inclusive of 'Learn to Skate' workshops to promote grassroots skills development, a ribbon cutting with professional demonstrations from National renowned athletes and lastly, a national qualifying regional skateboard competition. The event brought strong intergenerational participatory outcomes, with a positive outcome of the community seeing the potential of the new facility. There was approximately 600 in attendance throughout the day.
- Child and Family Support Service held healthy lunch box sessions in Childers and Gin Gin for families of young children. These sessions were facilitated by a Dietician to discuss what is a healthy lunch, lunch alternatives and how to pack a healthy and tasty lunch box for the kids. Along side of these sessions a visit by a Dental Nurse to talk about dental care in young children was held.
- Each week, 12 people attend Gin Gin Neighbourhood's Tai Chi for health on a Monday morning. The program is run by trained instructors who specialise in the management of arthritis. Slow gentle movements help ease pain and increase joint flexibility. A further five people attend the Neighbourhood's weekly Balanced Bodies Pilates program, a mind and body exercise aimed at improving overall health and wellbeing that encourages lifestyle changes through movement.

Bundaberg

Youth Week Colour Run
had

181 runners

Flourish Family Fun Day
welcomed over

160 babies

to the **Bundaberg Region**

Childers

Healthy lunch box and dental health sessions
attracted

23 families
in Childers and Gin Gin

78 individuals and families
accessed the
Neighbourhood Centres Emergency Relief program

Gin Gin

Free community class
attendance

Pilates
70 people

Tai Chi
252 people



Flourish Family Fun Day 2022, 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

- The identification of gaps and barriers for the community to access information is addressed as a clear purpose of the community development team. The community development team support community members to confidentially access information in a variety of ways including expo's, workshops, network meetings, referral pathways and forums.
- Homelessness is a rising issue in the community as the lack of suitable housing in both purchasing and rental of properties continues to increase at an alarming rate. This issue is not contained to the Bundaberg Region but a National concern. Sleepbus.org is a not-for-profit project providing crisis accommodation to the homeless. CD Officers involvement in the sleepbus.org initiative is to raise awareness in the community, educate the community, and work in partnership with local not-for-profit, government and non-government organisations to raise awareness and funds to purchase a bus.
- Hinterland Neighbourhood Centres provide free computer access to community members including internet access. Staff and volunteers provide assistance in helping learn and build confidence with technology.

4.2 Strengthen community ties with Council representatives

- Councillors are invited to all events, projects, initiatives and invariably are provided a task. This enables community members to engage with their Councillor informally while working alongside to meet a shared goal.
- Flourish Family Fun Day and the Welcome Baby Celebration are events Councillors provide added value by their presence. The opportunities to talk with the community in an informal outdoors environment, providing firsthand information to the residents of the Region promotes ripples of wellbeing and belonging. The community feels they know their Councillor and are able to share an experience.

4.3 Promote a community approach to combating societal issues

- Grants workshops provide an opportunity for small groups and clubs to share information about their club or group. Often connections are made during the workshops for the sharing resources such as Isis RSL and the Buxton Friendship Assoc. will join forces for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. Community

led projects and events create connections that in turn results in increased resilience for community members in their community.

- Sleepbus.org is a community led partnership that CD Officers support through a variety of approaches. Officers sit at the table with other organisations to raise the much needed funds to provide overnight accommodation for the homeless. Councils resources have been utilised to further the fund raising initiative by screening a movie at the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre, design factors from Corporate Communications and Bundaberg Now articles.
- Childers Neighbourhood Centre engaged young women through Isis District High School to facilitate BOOST (Building Opportunity for Success Tomorrow) program. Through the program young women builds resilience, awareness of local services, empowerment, healthy relationship, employability and life skills.
- Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre responded to low literacy rates in teenagers by collaborating with the Department of Education and forming the Gin Gin Early Years Network. 25 stakeholders contribute to the network who actively seek to improve the literacy rates of young people aged between 0 – 15 years.
- Across the region Community Development Officers raised awareness for the prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. Gin Gin Neighbourhood held a free community BBQ in partnership with the PCYC Emergency Service Cadets. 40 people including Councillors took a stand against DFV. A social media campaign through the Neighbourhood Centres Facebook pages assist to reach a wider audience.

4.4 Strengthen partnerships which build community capacity

- Neighbour Day 2022 was conducted across the Region in an annual project that resulted in over 200 entries. Residents were asked in 25 words or less why they felt their neighbours were so wonderful. This celebration of neighbours enhanced relationships, connectivity and strengthened community capacity. The wonderful stories shared were filled with inspiration and respect. Winners were recipients of BBQ Essentials packs delivered to the door.
- Developed the Community Youth Collective to maintain youth sector connectedness and capacity.
- Developed the Sport Network to create a new platform for community sports clubs to share information, build connections, create innovative solutions and build capacity of clubs.
- Conducting grants workshops and travelling to small groups to upskill and educate are part of promoting the Councils Community Grants Program. Developing informal relationships with groups builds trust which in turn increases and broadens ideas to utilise the funding.

Bundaberg

Grants workshops
reached over

30 small groups
and **clubs**

with information regarding the
Community Grants Program

Community Consultations
at the **Caravan Parks**

reached over
90 people

Childers

217 community
members

accessed the

free computers and
**internet and technological
support**

15 young women

participated in the

BOOST program

Gin Gin

524 community
members

accessed the

free computers and **internet**
with

193 receiving

technology support



1300 883 699
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