



Community Development Strategy 2020 – 2023

Reporting January – June 2021

Building Australia's
best regional community







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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.

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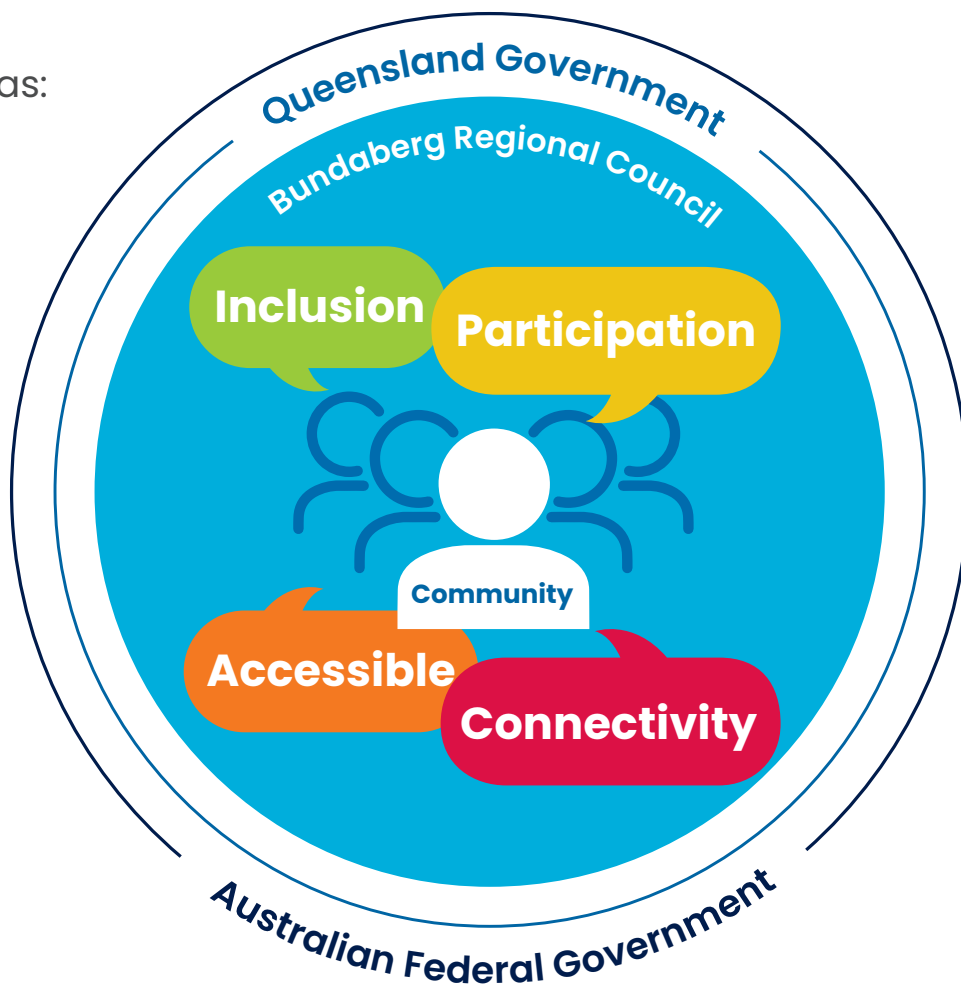
Community Development in local government is defined as enabling communities to develop active, sustainable and supportive environments in which people live, work, play and invest.

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





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

- By identifying gaps in community services and maintaining awareness of sectors that struggle to connect with the community, community development officers can respond to invitations to apply for external funding in a timely manner. Several community development activities stem from external funding received such as Youth Mental Health and Fishing, Our people our stories, Cultural Connections, Greenbook project activities, Flourish Family Fun Day, International Women's Day STEM presentation, Harmony Celebration Week Dinner, Youth Innovation Project, Bees Wax Wraps workshop and Playgroups.
- Neighbourhood Centres continue work within annual plans that identify significant activities, projects and programs that will bring the community together. Facebook, noticeboards and newsletters were used to promote and encourage community to participate in activities, projects and programs being held in the area. Centre-based activities include Tai Chi, Pilates, Card and Craft groups, parenting groups, playgroups, support groups and workshops.

1.2 Support people who feel isolated to build stronger connections

- Cultural Connections was held in the Alexandra Park, with multicultural groups coming together to showcase their music and dance in an atmosphere of fun and laughter. This was a very successful event as isolated groups connected and engaged in an informal setting.
- Gin Gin and Childers Neighbourhood Facebook pages were utilised to promote community activities, Council initiatives and raise awareness about local support services for the vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- Through the Community Care programs, Council worked with clients to facilitate services in different ways, ensuring participants had a voice and were able to maintain services in the home. Collaboration with the Community Development teams and activities has assisted clients to feel less isolated and build stronger connections.
- To build stronger social and community connection, which is critical for health and wellbeing Neighbour Day was celebrated throughout the region. Neighbours were encouraged to nominate their neighbour or neighbourhood for the neighbourly actions they perform throughout the year. Nominations were shortlisted with top 3 voted upon by the community. Prizes were awarded for the most voted.

1.3 Promote a solutions-based mindset

- Grants workshops are provided to the community annually and this upskills small groups and clubs to feel confident in applying for funding first from Council and then external Grants from larger funding bodies.
- The Neighbourhood Centres produced Bi-monthly newsletters to promote events run by local community groups and Council to encourage inclusion, interaction and cohesion, through education and involvement, for those who do not chose to access social media.
- A community transport forum was facilitated in Childers, this was a community led initiative to investigate the transport needs of the area. Through discussion it was identified a survey needed to be conducted to gauge the need and to determine the best course of action to meet these needs. This survey was made available in August 2021.

1.4 Promote inclusion and participation within the community

- Community Development promote a welcoming, safe and non-judgemental environment for all their activities so that the community feels confident that their participation will be welcomed and encouraged.
- Green book project engaged 370 young people from the region through various initiatives to educate them on a sustainable environment and bring them closer to their local environment.
- Youth Month event – Skates with Mates activity was run in both Childers and Bundaberg and was well supported. 132 and 150 youth respectively attended the local Skate Parks. A fun filled day with the youth service providers on site for young people to ask any questions. Red frogs facilitated the event with FREE BBQ on site. It was a good day for all skate boarders, scooter riders and roller skate enthusiasts.
- Knock your Socks off – design competition – another Youth month initiative. This competition was developed from the feedback received from the Youth Development Action Team. 16 designs entered, three winners. This competition has helped the young people to try their creative side.
- Council Grants Workshops are hosted across the Region to a broad range of small groups and clubs with varying educational achievement. Workshops are shared in easy, understandable language without complex jargon.

Childers community mosaic project has been running in 2021 with over 60 community members participating in the project. Participants design and create a mosaic art piece to be included in the community space situated outside the neighbourhood centre. Local artists have assisted with teaching mosaic and developing the design for the community space.

Youth month

was celebrated in the region, with various activities.

Bundaberg:

100%

of participants
Youth Mental Health and Fishing activity reported reduced worrying, feelings of doom and irritability following the activity.

3 Grants workshops presented across the region for **29 clubs** and small groups to upskill in funding applications.

Childers:

Skate with Mates

saw **132 young people**

and families enjoy a youth focused activity at the skate bowl with Red Frogs and a free BBQ.



The regions Neighbour Day Project received

81 nominations

Gin Gin:

53 entries

recycled art project as part of
Youth Month – Restore Our Youth Innovation Project



Naidoc Week parade, Bourbong Street, Bundaberg.

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

- Community development events and engagement are tantamount to developing civic pride in our community. Our people, our stories has been a long-term project with 106 people from across the region participating in interviews and engagement activities. Sharing their stories to highlight the diversity of our region will contribute to the Queensland Governments Social Cohesion Strategy.
- Engagement and participation opportunities are targeted towards sectors that struggle and have barriers and gaps in their services. Engagement in sectors provide an opportunity to explore alternate options for community members, individuals and groups.
- Youth Chronicles – quarterly newsletter highlights the good work our young people are doing in High schools, alternate school and through work experience. First issue for 2021 published in May with 35 hits on website and copies distributed in various meetings.
- Participating in opportunities such as Impact Community Services Hub provides access to an audience that may not regularly engage with Council officers.
- The Hinterland Neighbourhood Centres hosted Bi-monthly interagency which through collaborative practice with service providers and community groups are able to identify future projects and identify community needs.
- Activities that engaged both the young, old and in between were the focus of the team in Childers with collaborative partnerships with local providers including The Paragon Theatre, Isis District High School, Isis Community Kindergarten, Community

lifestyle Support, IMPACT, Taylor Street Legal Aid, COTA, Men's Shed and The Wagners It's a bloke thing. Community participated in Sparkle Dance Party, BOOST, International Women's Day breakfast, Kindy Open Day, Healthy lunch boxes, 1,2,3 Magic, Information sessions on all things aged care including wills and enduring power of attorney, and Prostate cancer.

2.2 Pathway programs

- Youth, Fishing and Mental Health promoted the great outdoors to 15 young people who had never fished. They learnt skills of rigging a rod and how to catch fish. The response of the young people was very positive, and they now have lifelong knowledge of fishing and ways of finding some space in their lives for personal care.
- Cultural Connections feedback from the audience and the participating groups showed a high demand for more activities of this type, informal and outdoor with music and dance.
- An important element of community development is staying abreast of changes in service providers in the locality. Referral pathway knowledge is an important instrument for officers to maintain. Many networks are participated in, but equally facilitated for the community, across the Region.

2.3 Culture participation

- Partnerships with Aboriginal organisations are fundamental to sharing information and knowledge surrounding referral pathways for the community. Youth Mental Health and Fishing was an informal partnership with PCCC, Youth Justice and YMCA 360 Program where all youth were encouraged to participate.
- A 'Traditional Welcome' at an event establishes a respectful and humble greeting to all people on the land on which we meet. Community development endeavours to always pay respect to the elders, past, present and emerging.
- The recent Cultural Connections also included a Flag Parade of all the nations represented on the day and a Chinese Dragon Dance who signifies good luck and success for the event.
- Harmony Week Celebration dinner in partnership with the Gin Gin Multicultural group supported cultural diversity and led to increased social connectedness.
- A series of colour fun activities, cooking classes and professional development opportunities to celebrate diversity through learning, fun, dance and cooking were held in Childers. Cultural learning made fun was run through local Early Childhood Services for children and educators, cooking classes were held for community members.

Networks

Monthly, bi monthly, quarterly

- All Abilities Alliance
- Bundaberg Region Seniors Alliance
- Housing and Homelessness Forum
- Early childhood Network
- Bundaberg Neighbourhood Centre, Interagency
- Family & Domestic Violence Meeting
- Family & Baby Network
- Local Level Alliance
- Wide Bay Multicultural Network
- Youth Development Action Team

Childers:

16 attendees

Indian cooking class for adults

Gin Gin:

Over **100 attendees** to **Harmony Week Celebration dinner**

Bi-monthly Interagency meetings

collaboratively to meet the needs of the vulnerable and disadvantaged in the community.



Project Green Book

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

- Accessibility to services is every community member's right. Young families may not always have access to up-to-date information or confidence to approach a service to gain knowledge. Flourish Family Fun day is held annually to provide equitable access to an intergenerational audience to source service providers.
- Participating in accessible initiatives such as the Queensland Fire & Emergency Services development of disaster preparedness for people with disability or participating in the National Disability Support Planners development of key documents ensures a broader context and application to Policy.
- Encouraging networks to meet at disability services for network meetings broadens the delegates knowledge of services as does hosting the 2021 Bundaberg Region Seniors Expo whereby 800 seniors perused 86 service provider stalls.

- Engaging with youth 15-17 years through Isis District High School, Childers runs two programs for the young men and women. These programs aim to help build resilience, awareness of local services, empowerment, healthy relationships, employability and life skills. 12 young women participated in BOOST (Building Opportunity fOr Success Tomorrow) gaining skills and links to community.
- The Hinterland Neighbourhood Centres facilitated regular weekly and fortnightly playgroups to meet a community need and provide an opportunity for information sharing to encourage a healthy, happy lifestyle with a focus on early intervention

3.2 Build the community sector responsiveness

- Educational opportunities for the community are facilitated annually and regularly. Governance and Grants Program workshops prove very popular in the community.
- Through Green book project, 9 schools were engaged to plant 300 trees which will add to BRC one million trees.

- The 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 non-judgemental environment were delivered.
- Neighbourhood Centres are a one stop shop for community to seek advice, support or referral. Centres work closely with community groups, organisations and businesses to ensure they are up to date on what is available to assist community. Through the referral process, centres are able to identify and collaborate with other sectors to develop responses to community need.

3.3 Encourage safe, active and healthy lifestyles

- Council encourages outdoor activities in a range of parks around the region. For example Boreham Park for Flourish Family Fun Day, Alexandra Park for Cultural Connections. Environmental bus tours to nature reserves, planting trees, skate with mates across the region and event photo shoots such as Flourish Family Fun Day at Buss Park.
- “Words Matter” Domestic and Family Violence awareness campaign was held across the region, including community BBQs in the Hinterland areas in May 2021 to raise community awareness and to send a clear message that domestic and family violence in families should not be tolerated. Local residents, businesses, community groups and Bundaberg Regional Council staff joined together to write messages in order to contribute to a social media visual campaign to support the prevention of violence.
- Active kids are healthy kids. With 105 children and 57 adult attendees at the Keeping Kids Active program in Childers, which ran over 2 days. The aim was to encourage families and children to get outside and be more active. Local sporting groups were engaged to provide activities and there was also a free BBQ lunch. Families engaged in obstacle courses, tag, football, hoola hoops, arts and craft, slip n slide and much more.

Bundaberg:

800 attendees
welcomed to
Seniors Expo

30 clubs/groups
at the **Community Grants workshop**

Childers:

Healthy Lunchbox sessions

56 children

39 adults

Keeping kids active

105 children

57 adults



Gin Gin:

‘Words Matter’

prevention of Family and Domestic Violence campaign.

High level of community participation



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

- Radio interviews improve education sharing as over 10,000 residents are listening to their radio at any one time over a variety of stations. An opportunity to promote Cultural Connections was appreciated as the interview raised awareness of the diversity of cultures in the Bundaberg Region.
- Teddy Bears Picnic was held in Gin Gin, to increase social connection for families with young children and to serve as an education opportunity for children aged 0 – 5 years.

4.2 Strengthen community ties with Council representatives

- Councilor representation at our events provides a professional authenticity for residents. Community members feel respected when they know the Councilor by name and are able, through discussion, to feel heard. Council leaders attending events provide a special atmosphere for residents, such as the Welcome Baby Celebration with over 200 babies registered, Skate with Mates – youth event, International Women’s Day breakfast and Australia Day Celebrations.

- Councilors attended the Gin Gin Domestic and Family Violence awareness BBQ to show their support for the campaign.
- Youth Development Action Team – five active members. Monthly meeting sharing information on youth trends/gap. Providing information available to support young people.

4.3 Promote a community approach to combating societal issues

- Community Development facilitate activities that build capacity in the community by addressing deficits in service provision. The Flourish Family Fun Day provides an opportunity for services to distribute their information of their services into the community in a soft approach. Services provide an activity for children to engage whilst they converse with the adults.
- An International Women’s Day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) presentation was held at the Gin Gin High School for female Year 10 students to encourage them to consider careers in traditionally male dominated fields, including farming and mining. Presenters provided practice advice about leadership and career opportunities.

4.4 Strengthen partnerships which build community capacity

- Officers are often called upon to facilitate events, meetings or gatherings whereby conflict may arise. As an impartial trained dispute resolution practitioner Council officers can empower great outcomes for small groups and clubs.
- Community development officers work across Council with a variety of Council departments such as the Library, Moncrieff, BRAG, Economic Development, Hinkler Hall and so forth. This united sharing of skills and knowledge builds capacity in community outcomes as events, projects and programs are strengthened by aligned facilitation and not hindered by repeated activities.
- Council of the Aging (COTA) Queensland and the Office of Fair Training worked in partnership with Gin Gin Neighbourhood Centre to deliver workshops to provide local Seniors with information on accessing aged care services and avoiding scammers. COTA and Taylor Street Legal Aid also partnered with Childers Neighbourhood Centre to run a workshop on all things aging including understanding Wills and Enduring Power of Attorney.

Bundaberg:

201 babies
registered for the
Welcome Baby
celebration

In March 2021 Community
Development engaged in

25 activities
with **1200**
participants

Childers:

Childers Neighbourhood
Centre facilitated over

30 activities
with **1090 attendees**

Gin Gin:

2 new groups

were formed at the Gin Gin
Neighbourhood Centre

- **Balanced Bodies Pilates**
- **Cards 'n All peer support**





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