

THE ROLE OF PLANNING IN COMMUNITY BUILDING

QUESTIONNAIRE

WHAT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS ABOUT.

Many planning and development agencies say that one of their goals is to build communities.

Frequently they say that they aim to create ‘quality communities’, ‘liveable communities’, ‘sustainable communities’, ‘vibrant communities’ and so on.

Many local councils also have management plans whose mission is stated in similar terms.

There is a long standing tradition of community development and community work in Australia and these professions clearly address themselves to community building.

This questionnaire seeks to obtain the views of **practicing planners** about their role in community building.

QUESTION 3

WHEN I READ PLANNING DOCUMENTS ABOUT A COMMUNITY, I USUALLY THINK OF A COMMUNITY AS

- the residents in a place_____1
- the people who live or work in a place_____2
- everyone connected to a place for whatever reason
(this might include people who grew up in a place and have left to live elsewhere,
people who care about the place because of its environmental values etc)_____3
- people who are connected by their interests and attachments (eg it might be through
their interest in a leisure activity, their membership of a profession or trade,
their religion, etc) and who live in different places_____4
- a place and all the many interest groups in that place_____5
- Don't know_____6
- Other, please specify_____7

- na_____10

✓ ONE ONLY

QUESTION 4 IF YOU HAD YOUR WAY....

Imagine you are the senior planner responsible for a new release area called NewPlace, a coastal development which in 10 years will house 15,000 people. NewPlace is an experiment in new town building and you have **an open budget** to bring about the best possible outcomes in **community building**. To what initiatives for community building in NewPlace would you give priority?

Briefly describe your top **TWO** initiatives. **Assume that impeccable community consultation and research processes are already planned or in place, so you do not need to list these here.**

INITIATIVE ONE	INITIATIVE TWO

QUESTION 5

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING **BEST** DESCRIBES YOUR REASONS FOR SELECTING EACH INITIATIVE FOR NewPlace?

PLEASE TICK ONE ANSWER ONLY FOR EACH INITIATIVE

YOUR FIRST INITIATIVE	✓ ONE ONLY
I've had first hand experience with this and it worked	5A1
Research findings indicate this would have good community building impacts	2
I believe this initiative would encourage social contact/networks/mutual support	3
I believe this initiative would develop community/voluntary organisations	4
This initiative would be straightforward so I could be confident that it would happen	5
This initiative would provide the facility or amenity within which community building could take place	6
This initiative would provide essential physical infrastructure without which the community could not function	7
I believe this initiative would create community pride	8
Other, please specify: na	9 12

YOUR SECOND INITIATIVE	✓ ONE ONLY
I've had first hand experience with this and it worked	5B1
Research findings indicate this would have good community building impacts	2
I believe this initiative would encourage social contact/networks/mutual support	3
I believe this initiative would develop community/voluntary organisations	4
This initiative would be straightforward so I could be confident that it would happen	5
This initiative would provide the facility or amenity within which community building could take place	6
This initiative would provide essential physical infrastructure without which the community could not function	7
I believe this initiative would create community pride	8
Other, please specify na	9 12

QUESTION 6

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

✓ BOX CLOSEST TO HOW YOU FEEL

AGREE STRONGLY AGREE WITH SOME RESERVATIONS DISAGREE TO SOME EXTENT DISAGREE STRONGLY NOT SURE

There are some lessons from the past which are easy to turn into best practice guidelines, such as how to build safe streets, what size population will support a bus service. Planners and developers have their work cut out just trying to comply with all the best practice guidelines that are around.	6 A 1	2	3	4	5
The market dictates where developers will build and if there is a market for the housing then that's the rationale for the development.	6 B 1	2	3	4	5
Unless you have a vision for a place, it is difficult to decide what to put where, ie what the relationship between various structural elements should be	6 C 1	2	3	4	5
The problem with a strategic, or master, plan is that its just ideas. In reality most strategies have to pass the developer profit test or the government funds test. These tests can transform a plan so that what gets built is not what was planned at all.	6 D 1	2	3	4	5
Physical infrastructure and buildings come first, social structures come later	6 E 1	2	3	4	5
The strategic elements tend to get forgotten during implementation. If you want them to survive, you have to give them a very deliberate and consistent emphasis.	6 F 1	2	3	4	5
People who are good at planning the physical elements of a place are not necessarily the people who can build the social elements of place – that requires different skills and different people	6 G 1	2	3	4	5
The opportunity cost of putting community buildings in town centres is often just too high.	6 H 1	2	3	4	5

QUESTION 7

WOULD ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY BUILDING BY PLANNERS?

TICK ✓ IF YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA. IF NOT PLEASE SAY WHY

	A GOOD IDEA ✓	A GOOD IDEA BUT NOT REALISTIC BECAUSE	NOT A GOOD IDEA BECAUSE	DON'T KNOW
Through S94 or developer agreements, developer contributions are extended to include buildings (such as shops and flats) that will yield rental income tied to contributing to the salary for a manager of the community facility, eg a community/cultural/adult learning centre.				
Town fringe & out of town shopping malls are banned (as in UK).				
A new State Planning Policy identifies criteria for locating community facilities, including community centres. (eg lonely buildings on the edges of reserves/non-commercial space without windows etc would not make it).				

	A GOOD IDEA ✓	A GOOD IDEA BUT NOT REALISTIC BECAUSE	NOT A GOOD IDEA BECAUSE	DON'T KNOW
DUAP prepares guidelines on community building for planners (eg. similar to DUAP's urban design guidelines) as part of State Planning Policies.				
New town centres are designed to include spaces suitable for markets for locally made/grown products.				
The EPA Act is changed to limit progress in a development beyond a threshold number of houses/households until a basic service infrastructure is in place.				
DUAP offers training for planners in partnership development with community organisations, the establishment of Development Trusts and the fostering of other social and community enterprises.				

QUESTION 8

HERE IS A LIST OF SKILLS A PLANNER MIGHT NEED FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING. WHAT DO **YOU** FEEL ABOUT EACH OF THESE SKILLS?

SKILLS ✓ THE BOX WHICH IS CLOSEST TO HOW YOU FEEL	I ALREADY DO THIS EFFECTIVELY	I COULD BE EFFECTIVE IN THIS AREA WITH SOME TRAINING	I COULD BE EFFECTIVE IN THIS AREA IF THERE WERE ADEQUATE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT IT	I COULD BE EFFECTIVE IN THIS AREA WITH SOME TRAINING ADEQUATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT	THIS IS OUTSIDE A PLANNER'S ROLE	NOT SURE
Being able to plan for the social/community infrastructure of a new release area, eg. for the development of a range of social and cultural facilities, services	8 A 1	2	3	4	5	6
Being able to demonstrate the market benefits of social investment and community infrastructure to the private sector (business and developers)	8 B 1	2	3	4	5	6
Being able to document and support social impact arguments.	8 C 1	2	3	4	5	6
Being able to plan for the development of social networks, local acquaintanceship and mutual support among neighbours in a new development.	8 D 1	2	3	4	5	6
Being able to start the processes needed to build community organisations and a civic infrastructure	8 E 1	2	3	4	5	6

QUESTION 9

THE DECLINE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Recently a number of social researchers have reported that over the last 40 years, fewer and fewer people in all walks of life have been willing to join organisations and/or volunteer their time. If this is the case, should (town/urban/regional) planners

- try to counter this trend by supporting the establishment of innovative community associations, partnerships, cooperative enterprises etc which are more responsive to social conditions in the 21st century, *or*
- assume the trend will continue and concentrate on basic social and cultural service provision, *or*
- do both of these things, *or*
- do neither of the above – its not a planner’s role to deal with levels of civic engagement.
- don’t know
- other, please specify _____

✓ TICK ONE

_____1
 _____2
 _____3
 _____4
 _____5
 _____6



THE RESPONSE
 WHICH MOST
 CLOSELY
 ACCORDS
 WITH YOUR
 VIEWS

- na 10

QUESTION 10

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS BEST APPLIES TO THE ROLE OF PLANNING IN COMMUNITY BUILDING?

PLEASE TICK ✓ THE DEFINITION WHICH YOU PERSONALLY PREFER TICK ONE DEFINITION ONLY

Community building by planners refers to a range of practices dedicated to increasing the strength and effectiveness of community life, improving local conditions and enabling people to participate in public decision-making	1
Community building by planners refers to putting the key social/community infrastructure(buildings + services, eg schools, hospitals, libraries, community centres etc) into a place	2
Community building by planners refers to the application of urban design principles, community development best practice and social policy research to the urban and regional policies and plans whether these are new release areas, areas of urban regeneration or areas undergoing significant levels of rebuilding	3
Community building by planners means putting all the essential <i>physical and economic</i> components necessary to sustain healthy lifestyles into a place – this includes housing, schools and hospitals but also solar energy systems, waste recycling, public transport, local jobs etc	4
Community building is a shorthand way of referring to everything that goes into making a new or redeveloped area a success –the physical structures, the social services, the community development activities, the lot!	5
I am not sure which definition best applies	6
Other, please specify	7

na

10

