

INQUIRY INTO SERVICE COORDINATION IN COMMUNITIES WITH HIGH SOCIAL NEEDS

Organisation: Campbelltown City Council

Date received: 14/08/2015

Submission to Upper House Inquiry – Service Coordination in Communities with High Social Needs

Campbelltown City Council is supportive of renewal within our community, and this Inquiry offers Council the opportunity to present a technically informed case for a long term community building program based on best practice models. The submission advocates for a program using proven methods to improve education, employment and health outcomes in high social needs communities.

Public housing estates in Campbelltown are the local suburbs with the greatest need, most notably Claymore which has the greatest level of disadvantage of any urban area in Australia (unemployment 40%) according to the most recent Index of Disadvantage scores calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The redevelopment of public housing estates in Campbelltown has seen great improvements in amenity and living conditions. There have been a number of short term community building programs linked with estate redevelopment. Unfortunately the energy and many of the gains from these programs are lost when the programs cease.

While residents benefit from improved amenity and housing that comes with redevelopment, problems such as limited education, unemployment and poor health do not disappear with a change of address. Redevelopment also brings greater dispersion of people with high needs which can make provision and coordination of services more difficult.

The emerging economic development and strength of Campbelltown offers many opportunities for education and employment for residents in high need communities. Unfortunately many of these benefits may not be realised without a community building strategy that matches the physical redevelopment that is underway.

The current approach is failing our residents and a well-researched, long-term alternative is needed.

A twenty five year community strategy based on initiatives similar to Beyond the Bell (details below) would deliver improved life outcomes through higher educational attainment, improved employment levels and reduced welfare dependency.

Recommendation:

That a twenty five year whole of community strategy be implemented in high social needs communities through a partnership between state and local government, focusing on educational attainment, employment and improved health.

The Great South Coast Group Inc. is a formal alliance of government, business and the community, all working collectively to enhance our way of life.

Charged with responsibility for delivering the Great South Coast Regional Strategic Plan, the group also gives voice to regional issues and concern.

This group aspires to creating a thriving, multi-faceted and resilient economy, all the while valuing and protecting our natural resources and environment. Our focus is on ensuring the people who live

in our region are healthy, have access to quality education options and enjoy great lifestyle choices. The work of the group focuses on four key areas:

Economic Growth

Improve our Connections

Sustain Natural Assets

Strengthen our Communities

Beyond the Bell - Great South Coast Education Attainment Project falls under the Strengthen our Communities banner of the Great South Coast Group and is an example of the long term, whole of community project advocated for in this submission.

For further details please see:

<http://www.greatsouthcoast.com.au/projects/education-attainment-project>

Here is an excerpt from that website:

Beyond the Bell - Great South Coast Education Attainment Project



The Great South Coast Education Attainment Project, Beyond the Bell, is one of the Great South Coast Group's top priority projects.

These priority projects have been singled out because of their importance to our region and their genuine potential to have a bearing on the quality of life and wellbeing of our people.

LATEST NEWS:

A regional action plan to improve the Great South Coast's education attainment

rates has been released.

The plan, developed as part of the 'Beyond the Bell' Collective Impact initiative, identifies where the region will focus its efforts over the next three years, including how it will measure success and what actions need to be taken.

Great South Coast Regional Action Plan

Local Area Action Plans

Beyond the Bell is a long-term initiative that took account of the varied and often complex factors that affected educational outcomes.

To date, hundreds of people across the region had been involved in the development of the regional plan and six local community action plans - one in each of the six Great South Coast local government areas.

- Colac Otway Shire Local Area Action Plan
- Moyne Shire Local Area Action Plan
- Corangamite Shire Local Area Action Plan
- Glenelg Shire Local Area Action Plan
- Southern Grampians Shire Local Area Action Plan
- Warrnambool Local Area Action Plan

Project Purpose and Mission

Beyond the Bell is an ambitious, ground breaking initiative that seeks to lead a cultural shift in the way communities and service providers work to support our young people. Ultimately the project aims to improve young people's chances of attaining Year 12 or equivalent and better prepare them for a successful transition to the next phase of their lives.

Our Vision: *Our community is a leader in working together to enable our young people to succeed. We will know we have succeeded when we have 90% or more of our young people achieving Year 12 or equivalent (Certificate III*) by 2030.*



Why is the Project Important?

Young people in the Great South Coast region are more likely to drop out of school than their peers

in other areas, face significant health and social disadvantages and are struggling to make successful transitions into employment. This is having a serious impact on the well-being of our community.

Our rates of completion of Year 12 or equivalent (equivalent meaning Certificate II or above) are some of the lowest in Victoria, but through this project the community is joining forces to reverse the trend.

Improving rates of educational attainment will benefit the whole of the Great South Coast community. It will assist in building a more skilled and resilient workforce, reduce reliance on our health, emergency and social services and improve the ability of our region to prosper socially and economically.

Project Goals

1. All young people from conception to adulthood are supported by family and community to reach their optimal potential.
2. All children and young people are supported to maximise their participation in education.
3. All young people are able to make a successful transition to further education, training or into employment that may include ongoing education.
4. Our community values the critical role of parents in shaping the learning and development of their children.
5. Our community values education and life-long learning.

Status of the project

The Beyond the Bell project is transitioning into an implementation phase with the introduction of a new governance structure to support this phase which will guide the implementation of a Regional Action Plan and six Community Action Plans.

Local Action Groups are well established in each of the Great South Coast Local Government Areas and have driven the development of Community Action Plans to address poor of educational attainment over the past few months.



A Collective Impact Approach

The Education Attainment Project is progressing under a '[collective impact](#)' approach as the project working group recognises that no single person, organisation or sector, however innovative or powerful can accomplish the projects goals alone.

A massive number of stakeholders are involved in the provision of programs, services and education to improve outcomes for our children and adolescents. These stakeholders often work in isolation and many have voiced their frustrations at the limited impact they are having on young people in need.

The '[collective impact](#)' approach is a structured and disciplined way of bringing stakeholders together to work collectively and achieve more with what we already have. It requires partners to move from traditional isolated impact approaches and can lead to large scale, long term and systematic change.

Become Involved

Everyone in the community is being called upon to take action. Improving outcomes for our young people relies on families, business, community organisations, schools and all levels of government working collectively to find new ways of doing things.

If you would like to become involved or want to find out more please contact
Beyond the Bell Planning and Liaison support:

[Download](#) the Beyond the Bell Regional Plan

[Download](#) the Great South Coast Year 12 or Equivalent Attainment Booklet.

[Download](#) the Year 12 Systems Framework for Optimal Outcomes.

