

# What is CDNet?

A primary aim of the network is to facilitate discussion and debate, to share information and to provide a better understanding of Community Development in the ACT and Region

The Community Development Network is a network of people, a cross-section of individuals from the community, non-government organisations, government, institutions and businesses with a keen interest in community development.

It is not an agency, association, community service, a government department or business.

Over 2100 people are linked by an email distribution system (a list server) that enables people to be better informed about activities, initiatives and events relevant to the community sector.

### Steering Group

The CDNet Steering Group meets about 6 times a year. CDNet does not have a formal structure or office bearers or positions, or a shop front. However, annual funding by the ACT Health Improvement Branch allows employment of a secretariat & email list administrator. The Steering Group is made up of volunteers, most of whom work in the community sector.

The CDNet Working Group convenes and facilitates regular forums and other activities for the ACT and Region.

### People

Over 2100 people are registered on CDNet email. Since 2003 thousands of people have participated in CDNet forums and activities. The National Community Development Conference in 2004 was the largest event organised by the Working Group, with over 400 people attending,

### Forums

Forums convened by CDNet do more than present 'expert' views and opinions for the sake of acquiring more knowledge. Significantly, forums are meeting places and an opportunity to share ideas and aspirations. Forums are suggested, organised and convened by people in the network.

### CDNet Email

CDNet has an email distribution system (list server) that, once you are registered enables you to post an email to over 2100 individual email addresses. In return you will receive all postings made to the CDNet Email list. You are also able to register more than one email address. To post to the CDNet after subscribing, the address is [cdnet@lists.cdnet.org.au](mailto:cdnet@lists.cdnet.org.au).

### To Register

To register your email address on the CDNet Email, go to:

- <http://www.cdnet.org.au> and follow the instructions from the 'Subscribe & Manage' page
- People already registered on the network can send a request via the 'Contact Us' page with information regarding the person who wishes to have their email address registered.

### Terms of Reference

The CD Network developed a Terms of Reference in 2003 that included the following roles of the network:

- To provide a support network for community development practitioners and those interested in community development principles and practices,
- To share and disseminate information, and facilitate discussion and debate on current trends, good practice, activities and other information relevant to community development, and
- To provide opportunities for learning through seminars, workshops and conferences.

### Principles

Principles of the network include the importance of ensuring the network is sustainable and retains independence. A further principle is the importance of retaining a broad definition of community development.

### Contributions

The CD Network has a minimal structure. A number of important contributions enable this:

- ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) was instrumental in the establishment of CDNet and also provides ongoing support such as provision of a central meeting venue, and administration of CDNet finances.