

## Community Development Network Forums and Workshops (2004-20)

Every year since 2004, the Community Development of the ACT & Region (CDNet) has organised between two to four forums or workshops to provide no-to-low-cost professional development and support to community workers in the ACT and Region.

### 2004

- May National Community Development Conference: *Wrestling Wicked Problems* (attended by 400 people)
- July *Community Development in the ACT – how can community development contribute to the achievement of the social plan?* (a combined Health Promotion/CD forum)
- August *Asset Based Community Development workshop* (Jodie Kretzman)
- November *For Love or Money – the Status of Community Development in the ACT & Region*

### 2005

- June *Community Development Evaluation* (Paul Bullen and Barbara Pamphilon)
- July *Wellbeing – A common thread linking community development and health promotion* (a combined Health Promotion/CD forum)
- September *Capacity Building for Sustainability Leadership*
- November *Charlie Pahlman Spring Networking Forum & Picnic*

### 2006

- April *CDNet Expo: Canberra Flavoured Community Development*
- May *Connecting with the ACT Government* (a combined Health Promotion/CD forum)
- July *Strengthening Mental Health & Wellbeing in Our Community* (a combined Health Promotion/CD forum)
- November *Playful Participation Symposium: CD and the Arts and Heritage*

### 2007

- May *Inclusion Conference 07* - CDNet contributed \$2000 in sponsorship
- June *Sustainable Consumption: Working with communities around climate change*
- September *Active Citizenship*  
Petitions, e-petitions, demonstrations, protests, etc – what is the effectiveness of these; How to involve youth; Legislation affecting citizen's rights; E-democracy; Resources; New technology
- November *Engaging Emerging Cultural Groups*

### 2008

- August *Storying: A Powerful Tool for Community Development*

July *Mapping the Community Development sector*  
An online survey to provide a snapshot of who is working in community development (paid or voluntary), what community development projects are being conducted (funded or unfunded), and where the funding comes from. 48 individuals from 38 organisations participated, resulting in a *Snapshot of Community Development in the ACT and Region: Report on a community development mapping project*, by Sue Hoffmann, released in December 2008. (see under [cdnet.org.au/resources/surveys](http://cdnet.org.au/resources/surveys) )

September Key survey findings were presented and discussed at the ACTCOSS Conference on Sector Development, September 4-5th 2008

### 2009

May *Evidence Based Evaluation*

November *Reflective Practice forum*

### 2010

April Launch of New CDNet website & email

August *Results Based Accountability Workshop #1*

November *A shared sustainability stall at the Belconnen Future Footprints Festival.*  
A collaboration between CDNet & The Sustainability Network. CDNet initiated coordination and funding of a shared stall, recognising that staffing stalls with volunteers at community fetes and festivals is quite a drain on small organisations' willing pool of volunteers. CDNet thus ensured that many groups could be represented and respond to festival-goers' varied interests in sustainability.

December *Results Based Accountability Workshop #2*  
This workshop was designed to build on the RBA Workshop #1 to get participants thinking in an effective way about guiding community organisations to plan, implement and measure their activities to build stronger communities.

### 2011

Several planned forums were delayed or cancelled for various (good) reasons. Unspent forum funds in 2010 and 2011 were used to pay CDNet email moderator's (previously voluntary) work and following year's funding adjusted down.

### 2012

March *Flourishing Me, Flourishing Communities: Building strength and wellbeing*  
A half day capacity building workshop for community workers facilitated by Amanda Horne (<http://www.amandahorne.com.au>)

July *Tools for Creating Positive Change* with Ted Smeaton – cancelled due to death of Ted Smeaton

- July *Research skills for Community Workers Workshop* (University of Canberra)
- 2013**
- March *Community Sector Forum: A snapshot of the ACT Community Sector and current issues in 2013.*
- June *Building a mentally healthy workforce: promoting self-care.* A learning and networking opportunity for community sector workers.
- August *Online research skills workshop for community members and workers*  
 CDNet in association with the University of Canberra (UC) ran a two-hour workshop to update skills on how to search databases for research purposes
- 2014**
- May *NDIS Community Sector Forum, with speakers and panel.*
- June *Self-care Workshop for community sector workers, facilitated by Amanda Horne.*
- October An online survey was sent to the 2300+ email subscribers to CDNet email list. A response rate of 154 (7%) allowed for a good sample for qualitative feedback.  
[CDNet 2014 Email Subscriber Survey Short Report.pdf](#)
- 2015**
- February *ABS Showcase Workshop #1, organised, promoted and catered for by CDNet*
- May *Managing qualitative research and evaluation data without software*
- Jun-Nov *Three bi-monthly Community Development Peer Network Meetings – a collaboration between CDNet and ACTCOSS*
- August *ABS Research Skills Workshop #2, organised, promoted and catered for by CDNet*
- November *Assets Based Community Development Workshop*  
 Facilitated by international speaker Jim Diers (enabled by Bank of Ideas <http://bankofideas.com.au>/who had brought Jim to Australia for a tour of workshops)
- December *Champions of Change workshop, in collaboration with SEE-Change*
- 2016**
- March *Alternative Sources of Funding Workshop, facilitated by Dion Klein (March 2016)*
- September *The Ripple Effects of the NDIS – Two Years On*  
 CDNet and Ready4 co-hosted a forum two years after CDNet facilitated a forum to gain an understanding of the progression towards the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) from various perspectives. Two years on, this whole day forum explored the impacts and ripple effects of the implementation of the NDIS in the ACT and what that might mean for the future. The forum provided the opportunity to hear from and engage with the experiences of participants, carers, community

service organisations and the NDIA around the transition over the past two years both within the disability space but also the ripple effects into other fields such as aged care and home and community care.

October *Power to Communities: Facilitating Asset Based Community Driven Efforts (ABCDE) Workshop*

Facilitated by Peter Kenyon, global leader in Asset Based Community Driven Efforts (ABCDE) theory and practice and Founder and Director of the Bank of I.D.E.A.S and Zizi Charida, Director of Community Minds Incorporated, who has successfully applied ABCDE to work she has initiated with CaLD, migrant and refugee communities.

*Six bi-monthly Community Development Peer Network Meetings* – a collaboration between CDNet and ACTCOSS

## 2017

June *Building Professional & Personal Resilience*, facilitated by Lyn Worsley, clinical psychologist - [www.theresiliencedoughnut.com.au](http://www.theresiliencedoughnut.com.au)

[Note: It can sometimes be hard for CDNet's Steering Committee to organise events in the July-Dec period; unless we do something in September, the year 'just goes' with Mental Health Week, AGMs and end of year busyness.]

*Six bi-monthly Community Development Peer Network Meetings* – a collaboration between CDNet and ACTCOSS

## 2018

March-June *CDNet/CD Peer Network Storytelling Project* to raise awareness of and celebrate community-driven work being done by community workers and community champions:

Two bi-monthly Community Development Peer Network Meetings held the following workshops:

March *Story-telling skills development workshop #1* for community workers and champions, facilitated by Lesley Harris of Capital Giving (<http://capitalgiving.org/>)

May *Story-telling skills development workshop #2*, facilitated by Melanie Greenhalgh (<https://melaniegreenhalgh.com>)

May *Asset Based Community Development one-day workshop* facilitated by Peter Kenyon and Cormac Russell.

A forum put on by Communities@Work in partnership with ACTCOSS and CDNet.

June *Community Development: Celebrating Its Hidden Strengths. Stories of Collaboration and Impact*

Facilitated by Susan Helyar, Director of ACTCOSS, the forum aimed to raise the profile and awareness of community development to high level players in

government. Susan provided a context piece on the [ACT Community Services Industry Strategy 2016-2026](#). Two stories of the contribution of community development in Canberra were showcased, followed by a panel comprising Community Services Directorate and another Directorate staff, a researcher in CD and a CD practitioner.

In addition, a further four bi-monthly Community Development Peer Network meetings were held – a collaboration between CDNet and ACTCOSS – with on average of 20 people attending each.

## 2019

- May *The Art of Place: Growing communities through Placemaking*. A collaborative Placemaking forum bringing together government, business and community, highlighting the work of regional Placemaking practitioners.
- July CDNet conducted a *survey* of its 2044 email subscribers. 106 responded (5%) to a 15- a response rate that provides a reasonable sample for analysing qualitative feedback. Some comparisons were made with a similar survey conducted in 2014.
- [Executive Summary - CDNet Email Subscriber Survey 2019](#)  
[CDNet Email Subscriber Survey 2019](#) - the full report

In addition, six bi-monthly Community Development Peer Network Meetings were held – a collaboration between CDNet and ACTCOSS

## 2020

- April Cancelled due to COVID: A hands-on training workshop on applying *Co-Design principles to locally-led Placemaking* was fully planned, facilitated by CoDesign Studio to build on CDNet’s well-attended forum last year on the *Art of Place – Growing Communities through Placemaking*.
- May A webinar based on the above was investigated, but it was costly, and COVID was in full swing.
- June An online forum with the Jeder Institute ([jeder.com.au/discoverables-not-deliverables](http://jeder.com.au/discoverables-not-deliverables)), based on the ABCD Institute’s ‘Head, Hand, Heart’) was planned. This had to be postponed due to CDNet’s funding not being confirmed for 2019-20

No bi-monthly Community Development Peer Network Meetings were held due to COVID.

In the context of COVID and a lack of confirmed funding until late 2020, CDNet opened a Zoom account and focused on having regular online meetings to support CD Workers in Canberra and Queanbeyan and to share what was happening in the community sector.

## 2021

- March *Mental health in a time of COVID* (planned)