

Communiqué

Neighbourhood and Community Centre Strategic Repositioning Committee

8 February 2023

The Queensland Neighbourhood and Community Centre (NCC) Strategic Repositioning Committee held its fourteenth meeting on Wednesday 8 February 2023. The meeting was chaired by Belinda Drew, Deputy Director General of Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and attended by Committee members: Sandra Elton, Em James, Michelle Lucas, Louise Judge, Tanya Stevenson, Mara Basanovic and Matthew Gillett. Meeting discussions were facilitated by Prof. Tim Reddel, University of Queensland. Apologies for the meeting were Brad McCoy, Nancy Spencer, Nyoka Fetoa'i, Karen Dare, Tomas Passeggi, Geoff Leeming, Gary Adsett and Regina Turner.

This meeting was an all-day 'in person' meeting in Brisbane, the Committee had not met face to face in the last year, this was a great opportunity for in depth discussion.

Since it last met in November 2022, the Committee, in partnership with the department and Neighbourhood Centres Queensland, conducted a series of online forum sessions in December 2022 and in January/ February 2023. The forums were well attended, and the Committee greatly appreciated the valuable feedback and input from all who participated. The input from participants at the sessions was considered by the Committee at the meeting on 8 February 2023 and, where applicable, will be incorporated into the Strategic Framework and the future work of the Committee.

In summary feedback in relation to the three components of the Strategic Framework were:

- ❖ **Purpose:** that strength-based and action focused language is appropriate, that descriptions of the terms used would be helpful and that concepts of social awareness and social justice promotion should be considered for inclusion.
- ❖ **Investment:** that there are differences between investment needs in urban, regional, rural and remote locations, that informal funding and resources such as volunteers, management committees and contributions from local business are also part of investment and that consideration should be given to costs associated with management buildings.
- ❖ **Performance and reporting:** that reporting frameworks need to have a consistent approach and understanding that is shared by NCCs and contract management, that captures the uniqueness of NCCs and minimised the data collection burden. Feedback regarding the need for training in the new reporting was well support.

In addition to feedback regarding the components of the Strategic Framework, the Committee was delighted with the positive feedback on their work and that participants at the session conveyed an overall optimism and hopefulness.

The Strategic Framework will be a shared vision between the department, NCC SRC and Neighbourhood Centres Queensland (NCQ), input from the NCC sector is critical to the success of the shared vision.

At the next meeting the Committee will progress their work to finalise the Strategic Framework, this will be a major milestone and achievement for the Committee.

The Committee is committed in ensuring that appropriate engagement and consultation with the NCCs continues to occur. The Committee welcomes queries or suggestions that can be emailed to the Committee Secretariat NCCCommittee@chde.qld.gov.au.

Brad McCoy

Chair and Executive Director

Community Services

Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy



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