

Community Engagement Resources

Cox, E. (2002). **The Social Audit Cookbook: recipes for auditing the way we connect.** Sydney, NSW: The Lance Reichstein Foundation.

http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/download/social_audit_cookbook.pdf

This book is a guide for community advocates wishing to achieve social change to improve the way society functions. It is a practical guide detailing how to undertake social research (particularly on social capital) and how to use this research as the basis for more effective advocacy activities.

Department of Victorian Communities (2004). **Indicators of Community Strength in Victoria.** Melbourne, Victoria: Strategic Policy and Research Division, Department of Victorian Communities.

[http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/web14/dvc/rwpgslib.nsf/8CF90DC96788CB47CA2569D600063621/5C594A766EA8C709CA25705F00147335/\\$File/2027_Comm_Strength_A4_V4.pdf](http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/web14/dvc/rwpgslib.nsf/8CF90DC96788CB47CA2569D600063621/5C594A766EA8C709CA25705F00147335/$File/2027_Comm_Strength_A4_V4.pdf)

This document describes indicators that can be used to measure community strengths. It presents research about changes in community strengths over time and across local government boundaries in Victoria.

Community Builders

<http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au>

“Community builders” is a New South Wales Government website presenting practical information on supporting communities to enhance and strengthen their community.

Community Building-Communities Growing Together

<http://www.communitybuilding.vic.gov.au>

This website is a Victorian Government initiative designed to support the development of stronger Victorian communities. It aims to inform and connect people involved in community strengthening projects across Victoria.

The Asset Based Community Development Institute

<http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/abcd/abcdtopics.html>

The Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD), based in the United States, produces many useful resources to help capacity-building and community development. In particular, it produces practical resources and tools for community builders to identify, nurture, and mobilise neighbourhood assets.

The Community Toolbox

http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/sub_section_main_1381.htm

The Community Toolbox website (from the Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development at the University of Kansas, U.S.A) has a substantial amount of practical information to support work in promoting community health and development.

Mrazek, P., Biglan, A., Hawkins, J.D. **Community-Monitoring Systems: Tracking and improving the well-being of America's children and adolescents.** Society for Prevention Research.

www.preventionresearch.org.

This report from the United States reviews the actions required for effective monitoring of child and adolescent well-being and discusses how to use this information to develop effective programs and policies. The recommendations are relevant at a federal, state and community level.

The Community Portal

<http://www.community.gov.au/>

The Community Portal provides access to online services and information for Australian community organisations and communities. This information is provided by the Commonwealth Government and includes services provided by all levels of government and the non-government sector. There are over 3,000 relevant sites with an alphabetical listing that include links to such topics as funding, volunteering, evaluation and social capital.

Community Engagement in the NSW Planning System

<http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/builder/participation/censw.html>

A handbook published by Planning NSW in 2003 to promote community engagement. See *Resources / Community Engagement in NSW Planning System*

Negotiation Skills - A communitybuilders.nsw Toolkit

http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/getting_organised/people/negtkt.html

This is a summary from a variety of sources of some of the principles, steps and strategies in the process of negotiation.

Building Your Community: an Asset Based Community Development Toolkit

http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/download/Making_Headway_ToolKit.pdf

The Toolkit provides a practical guide on how to build on a community's strengths and assets through a range of community activities. The Tool Kit was produced by the Central Coast Community Congress Working Party 2003 in response to the overwhelming success of the inaugural *Making Headway Central Coast Community Congress* held in February 2002.

AIFS Stronger Families and Communities

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/sf/communities.html>

For online references and resources

Communities by Choice Booklet - an introduction to sustainable community development

http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/getting_started/needs/cbc.html

This illustrated booklet explores three basic dynamics of community, introduces sustainable community development as a process for making choices about the future, and outlines a series of steps to guide communities toward becoming sustainable.

Department for Victorian Communities (2004). **Getting to Know Your Community - A Guide to Using Local Data**. Melbourne, Victoria: Office of Community Building, Department for Victorian Communities.

<http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/doc/Local%20Data%20Guide.pdf>.

This guide on using local data has been produced by the Office of Community Building to meet the information needs of communities and support local community planning. A 'first of its kind', it is both an excellent guide to all community statistics on local communities produced by state government, and a tool for communities to compile a community profile of their own community.

Department of Sustainability and Environment and Department of Primary Industries (2004). **Effective Community Engagement: Workbook and Tools**. Melbourne, Victoria: Community Engagement Unit, Resource and Regional Services Division, Department of Sustainability and Environment.

<http://www.cbt.infox>

This workbook provides a practical process for building the capability of individuals and groups to engage effectively with stakeholders and the community. It includes tools and resources underpinned by principles, concepts and tested models to develop purposeful and effective engagement plans that respect and are inclusive of the diversity of stakeholders and community. Importantly, the workbook also incorporates a philosophy of learning to continuously improve. The workbook is a dynamic resource and is expected to continue to evolve as the skills and capacities are extended in balance with community and government needs.

Department of Sustainability and Environment (2006). **Effective Engagement Kit**

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/wcmn203.nsf/Home+Page/8A461F99E54B17EBCA2570340016F3A9?open>

The Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment has recently developed a three-part kit to assist people seeking to engage with various communities. This kit has been developed as part of a suite of approaches to build the capacity of its engagement practitioners in:

- Informing the community of policy directions of the government.
- Consulting the community as part of a process to develop government policy, or build community awareness and understanding.
- Involving the community through a range of mechanisms to ensure that issues and concerns are understood and considered as part of the decision-making process.
- Collaborating with the community by developing partnerships to formulate options and provide recommendations.
- Empowering the community to make decisions and to implement and manage change.

Cooper, L., Verity, F. and Bull, M. (2005). **Good Practices and Pitfalls in Community-Based Capacity Building and Early Intervention Projects: A Toolkit**. Canberra, ACT: Australian Department of Family and Community Services.

<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/sfsc-toolkit.htm>

O'Leary, T. (2006). **Asset Based Approaches to Rural Community Development: Literature review and resources**. Edinburgh, Scotland: International Association for Community Development.

<http://www.iacdglobal.org/documents/resource/rsrAssetBasedCommunityDevelopmentResourceACDE-book.pdf>