

Process Report

Whitsundays, Isaac and Mackay CoCB Initiative

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Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay (WIM) Coalition of Community Boards (COCB)
Regional Planning Group: Sub-committee of Regional Social Development
Centre (trading name for Mackay Regional Council for Social Development Pty
Ltd)

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ABSTRACT

Sharing insights and strategies into the developmental processes and frameworks of the developing WIM COCB Regional Planning Group (why, how, when, where)

In 2012, Ann Ingamells shared with Carmel Daveson of the Regional Social Development Centre (MRCSD trading name for Mackay Regional Council for Social Development Pty Ltd) the fledging initiatives developing in the greater Brisbane area in relation to the Coalition of Community Boards (COCB). The material below looks at the processes, which have been initiated in the Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay (WIM) region up to this present date. These processes have been documented at the suggestion of a number of people presently participating in the COCB initiative.

The story below must be seen in the context of the:

1. **External to the region relationships:** between Ann Ingamells and Carmel Daveson both individuals being committed to community development process work
2. **Internal to the region relationships:** existing between (a) MRCSD and other community based structures and (b) Carmel Daveson publically as a MRCSD board member and personally with a range of community board members and workers.
3. **A Social Development regional structure:** the Mackay Regional Council for Social Development is a regional social planning and community development organisation. The structure has always been seen as a mechanism that facilitates; (i) collaborative regional planning processes, and; (ii) collective voices around social justice issues.
4. **A Community Development Process Framework:** In the 1990s Tony Kelly, Bea Rogan, Maggie Shambrook, Maria Tenant, Ann Ingamells, Pat Wood and Carmel Daveson collaboratively developed a community development process method and the MRCSD has utilised that particular framework for decades. The framework has two major components both of which must be seen as **an interlocking process:**
 - (i) Ordering: This is about working with individuals/ small groups/ representative of formal organisations to progress private concerns into collective public action by forming development relationships (bond) and then fostering, maintaining, and monitoring the collective public process and action (band).
 - (ii) Structuring: This focuses and reminds us of the ways in which the momentum of the new public group is initially stabilised within an existing organisation, and how the facilitator progresses the group's concerns and actions into public structures thus enhance community capacity.

We Begin: Ordering: The Relationship with another outside our region

We Begin: Structurally - authority within the organisation

ORDERING



STRUCTURING

What we did.	How we did it	Outcome
<p><u>Context:</u> MRCSD was already uneasy about the policies of the present State and Commonwealth Government as it had lost its only core funding which initially came through the Neighbourhood Centre programme.</p> <p>Ann Ingamells spoke with Carmel about COCB and it was resolved that Carmel would raise it at an MRCSD meeting to ascertain its interest the Queensland initiative.</p>	<p>Ann and Carmel discussed the current political policy & its effects on community sector.</p> <p>They agreed on the need for a public response and Carmel indicated she was interested in being involved.</p> <p>Agreement was reached on strategies e.g. Carmel to discuss COCB with MRCSD's Management Committee to ascertain interest.</p>	<p>Carmel committed herself to the Qld COCB initiative and agreed to be the initial conduit to MRCSD.</p>

What we did	How we did it	Outcome
<p>Worked within the organisation.</p>	<p>Carmel as one of MRCSD's board members discussed her conversation with Ann Ingamells at Management Ctee meeting;</p> <p>The Committee discussed: If the work of COCB was congruent with the vision mission goals objectives and policies of the organisation;</p> <p>What procedures and channels of communication within the organisation were would be set in place.</p> <p>How MRCSD's involvement with Qld COCB could strengthen the capacity of MRCSD to provide an environment that fosters collective public action.</p> <p>Identified MRCSD's capacity to strengthen its existing relationships, within the wider geographic, sectoral and strategic communities</p> <p>Commenced Identifying strategic relationships with people in key systems, sectors and organizations through which MRCSD conducts its public work;</p> <p>Discussed who would be the representatives of MRCSD to Qld COCB and who would liaise with COCB.</p>	<p>MRCSD Management Committee agreed to monitor the process and appoint Shane (President) and Carmel (board member) to attend teleconferences and report back to the Management Committee.</p> <p>Management Committee agreed to the formation of a sub-committee should the community based organisations be interested in participating in the COCB process.</p>



Relationships were initiated & fostered with individuals who were on a range of community-based organisations.

ORDERING THE PROCESS



STRUCTURING THE PROCESS

We Begin: Ordering: Initiated Relationships in relation to COCB

What we did	How we did it	Outcome
Initiated OR renewed relationships of a developmental nature	<p>Identified some of the people that we already knew and who sat on a range of community boards and explored his/her possible interest in discussing the notion of the COCB with us.</p> <p>On a one to one basis we discussed the COCB with a range of people.</p>	A small number of representatives of boards were initially identified as interested in knowing more and were prepared to come together.

What we did.	How we did it	Outcome
Shane and Carmel reported to the MRCS management committee.	Through monthly meetings and having the COCB on the agenda.	Shane and Carmel continued to attend teleconference meeting with Qld COCB group



Facilitated developed and maintained the movement of the individual private concern to collective public

ORDERING



STRUCTURING

What we did	How we did it.	Outcome
Facilitated developed and maintained the movement of the individual private concern to collective public action.	<p><u>The Trigger from Outside the Region</u></p> <p>Ann rang to say she could come up to Mackay and was available to meet with interested people.</p> <p>Carmel arranged three small gatherings to enable Ann to meet with small groups of people.</p> <p>Ann indicated there might be some small money available to MRCSD to assist the engagement process.</p> <p>Cr Alison Jones elected representative of Mackay Local Government was in attendance and made a suggestion re a meeting with a senior staff person.</p>	<p>From the three gatherings, five people identified interest in joining with Shane and Carmel to form a Regional COCB Planning Group to facilitate discussions across the Whitsunday, Isaac, and Mackay Region.</p> <p>Cr Alison Jones arranged for a COCB representative to meet with Gerard Carlyon, Director of Community & Client Services Mackay Regional Council.</p> <p>Gerard was interested in the COCB initiative & suggested that the group apply for a \$5,000 grant from the Mackay Regional Council to assist the processes of engagement with community groups.</p> <p>A CDO was allocated to support the group processes.</p>

What we did	How we did it	Outcome
Worked within the MRCSD structure.	<p>Reporting back to the management committee</p> <p>Discussed the possibility of applying for the small grant from Qld COCB</p> <p>Discussed the meeting with Mackay Regional Council & the application of a \$5000 grant.</p> <p>Discussed the potential relationship with the emerging small group.</p>	<p>MRCSD applied to Qld COCB for the \$4,900 grant.</p> <p>MRCSD was aware that the small group had formed and that it would be providing terms of reference for the management committee's adoption.</p> <p>As was the usual process, MRCSD indicated that the sub group should determine its interest in applying for the Council grant and what the nature of the grant should be.</p>

NEXT STEP

Foster and maintain the small collective public process and action.

ORDERING

STRUCTURING

What we did	How we did it.	Outcome
Foster and maintain the small collective public process and action	Small group meetings occurred over a period of time.	Terms of Reference were established, ownership of the processes were clearly articulated together with boundaries and mandate.
	Community development principles were enacted in fostering the group development to ensure ownership of collective group processes.	Group agreed on the name: Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay (WIM) Regional Planning Group and meeting dates. Decision was made to ask MRCSD to apply for a grant from the Mackay Regional Council This grant subsequently was received.
	Individual stories were heard and fears articulated.	MRC Community Development Worker was allocated by the MRC to work with the group in the MRC area. Early discussion was held about the various relationships individual people had throughout the region and how these might be enacted re COCB. Various roles were discussed.
	The common purpose was identified and a decision was made to proceed with further public action.	Ann Ingamells indicated she could visit Mackay again in February and the group decided to aim for small group forums throughout the WIM region. Decision made to have regular meetings.
		Draft process plan was to be drawn up for further discussion. Decision made to engage a worker and to tease out the work to be undertaken in supporting the group.

What we did	How we did it	Outcome
Work with WIM COCB Regional Planning Group to stabilise the small collective public action within the structure of MRCSD.	By acknowledging their mandate give the structural authority for the group to progress the public action.	MRCSD adopted the Terms of Reference Applied for and received the grants and ensured that a project line would appear in the budget process. Ensured that key persons within the MRCSD organisation would continue to support the initiative. (Four members committed to becoming part of the process)