

***Conference Vision: “Our conferences aim to inspire, celebrate and develop a shared approach to citizen-led community development (CD)”.***

**Conferences will include activities across three streams:**

- 1. Citizen-led ethos of CD** – citizen participation, vocation and profession;
- 2. CD practice** – values, stories, skills, methods, & action-reflection processes;
- 3. Critical analysis, Ethical sensibility, Social policy and Political advocacy committed to social justice** – a local and global structural analysis of injustice; an awareness of creative responses at implicate, micro, mezzo, macro, and meta levels; an appreciation of social policy fields and frameworks more likely to facilitate the quest for social justice; and a support of community shaped political advocacy and activity around significant local and global issues of social justice.

**Elements that are important for all conferences:**

- A storytelling/ narrative approach to learning about practice. Not “heroism” stories, “service to”, or “doing for” stories, but bottom-up CD practice stories....working “with”.
- A dialogical approach and co-learning approach; that include not just informal discussions at morning teas and breaks, but formally structured into the conference eg; Open Space; World Café, yarning circles etc.
- Fun, yet purposeful; more participatory; more inclusive; creativity; playfulness, kinesthetic learning; community arts; outdoors;

**To hold the ‘tradition’ of the conferences, including:**

- To have a Les Halliwell address tying into one of the 3 streams (listed under the vision statement above); we’ve previously agreed that the CDQ Coordinating group will choose the speaker for the Les Halliwell address;
- To have a strong local grassroots dimension and a ‘local’ feel with local community groups involved in a range of ways and to celebrate the host region;
- To support and sustain our work by encouraging a community of practice – sharing stories with peers;
- To develop a current analysis (see social policy stream above);
- To encourage the ethos that it is a conference FOR communities and practitioners, BY communities and practitioners (not experts unrelated to CD);
- It is a Queensland statewide conference that moves to a different location every two years;
- It does not do formal business eg passing motions (but could be a catalyst for such business outside of the conferences);
- To try to make the conference pay for itself; and keep costs down so low paid and unpaid people can attend eg support processes for bursaries etc.

- That the regional organising 'host' for the conferences group be comprised of a consortium of people eg Council and local NGOs and people practicing CD.
- To try to pass on a similar amount of the seeding funds to the next conference organising group;
- That each local conference organising group to do a handover process to the next conference.