



NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECT
– Happier together –

Because life is better when we belong



COMMUNITY PARTNERS KIT

For Agencies who wish to support people to develop
community in the form of local neighbour groups

www.neighbourhoodconnect.org.au
hello@neighbourhoodconnect.org.au

Find us on:





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This kit can be freely shared for community and educational (not for profit) purposes.

Disclaimer: The ideas and suggestions in this kit and on our website are examples only. Individuals are responsible for taking adequate safety precautions, obtaining relevant permissions and observing any relevant laws or regulations related to their activities. Neighbourhood Connect takes no responsibility for the activities of neighbour groups.



An invitation to Agencies to become Community Partners.



Dear Colleague,

Do you like the idea of supporting people to create a strong sense of community?

Does building strong local communities align with your agency's mission?

We invite you to be a Partner in the Neighbourhood Connect project. Partners can play an active role in the development of local Neighbourhood Connect groups in several ways:

1. by supporting residents who want to start a neighbour group;
2. by identifying (and encouraging) local residents to become Community Connectors and initiate a neighbour group;
3. by initiating an initial meeting of neighbours and then calling for Community Connectors;
4. by providing financial or in-kind support to Neighbourhood Connect.

We don't recommend that your agency take on the role of convening a Neighbourhood Connect group as residents are not likely to feel ownership of the group and the group may be swayed by your priorities. There's nothing wrong with making suggestions to the group, as long as they are free to decide whether to take them up or not.

Together, let's create a connected neighbourhoods movement.

To discuss how you can support the project please contact me.

Yours in collaboration,

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SUPPORTING NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECT GROUPS

1. Supporting residents who want to start or sustain a group.

You might be approached for support by one or more residents wanting to start a Neighbourhood Connect group – or, indeed, by a group that has already formed.

As a Partner you could assist them with:

- resources, for example: a meeting place, ideally with an adjoining area where children can play safely, refreshments, photocopying, computer use, etc
- advice, for example: services in the area, venues, ways of reaching people, media contacts, regulatory requirements, etc
- suggestions of activities the group might undertake that would
- meet community needs, which the Community Connectors could put to the group.

2. Identifying locals willing to take the role of Community Connector.

In the area that your agency serves, select a locale of 400-800 households to be the area for a potential Neighbour Group. Google maps or a street directory may assist here, but your own knowledge of the area and its residents will be invaluable.

Adapt our sample invitation from our website which calls for interest in convening a Neighbourhood Connect group and letter drop it. Provide a link to, or email the Neighbourhood Connect Community Connector Kit to those who respond and invite them to a meeting to discuss the idea and to plan the first gathering.

Alternatively, email your volunteers, activity participants or others who may be willing to be a Community Connector and initiate a Neighbour Group.





3. Initiate an initial meeting of neighbours and then call for Community Connectors.

Alternatively, you may prefer to invite residents to a meeting, describe what Neighbourhood Connect is and the value of community connection and assess the level of interest. If there is interest, you could ask if two or more people are willing to be Community Connectors (organisers). This approach may work particularly well if there is another topic of community interest that you are wanting to bring people together to discuss, that may attract community minded people.

It may be that people from a larger area are invited to that meeting and the locality of those who are willing to convene a group determines where groups are established. In other words, one broad public meeting may produce a number of Community Connectors, who could establish a number of Neighbourhood Connect groups.

Your role here is to support the would-be connectors by linking them to the project, where they can get further support, and to discuss ways you might continue to work with the Group as a Partner in their endeavours.

4. Provide financial or in-kind support

If you see the value of having the social infrastructure of neighbour groups across the area you work in perhaps you could link people to local grants available or other projects to allow collaboration across your community and a supportive environment for community capacity building.

If you value the creation of a national movement of neighbourhood groups, working together to combat loneliness and social isolation, while building resilient, connected communities, perhaps you would like to support the Neighbourhood Connect project or know people and organisations who would?

Neighbourhood Connect relies on a team of committed volunteers, but financial or in-kind support would enable us to have paid staff and capacity to pay for our operations, promotion and support activities. In-kind support could remove the barrier of access to printing of invitations for local groups, enable us to develop our IT systems and bring our Connectors together. If you can help, please get in touch at hello@neighbourhoodconnect.org.au.

Together, let's build a connected neighbourhoods movement across Australia.

