

Community Development Queensland (CDQld)



Community Development Seminar Series

The world in which we practice community development is changing and this seminar series will provide opportunities for practitioners, community members and other interested people to discuss and debate practice issues in this changing context.

You are invited to attend a series of six seminars on contemporary issues in community development practice. They are hosted by *CD Queensland, Griffith University* (School of Human Services) and *University of Queensland* (School of Social Work & Human Services).

The seminars are a precursor to the joint *CD Queensland (CDQld)* and *International Association of Community Development (IACD)* Conference which will be held in Brisbane, June 17 – 19 2009.

Each two hour seminar will address a contemporary issue with particular reference to the questions:

1. What is happening to local communities in this context?
2. How can local communities enable themselves and sustain their efforts to address the issues?
3. What can we learn for contemporary community practice?

Topics for 2008 include:

June 4th 2008, 4-6pm: *What's Economics got to do with Community Development?*

Venue: Griffith University South Bank Campus Building S07 Room 2.19

(Located behind the Ship Inn Tavern, near the Good Will Bridge)

August 20th 2008, 4-6pm: *Making the Local Relevant: Spaces and Structures for People*

Venue to be confirmed

October 15th 2008, 4-6pm: *Conflicting in Communities: Difference, Dissent and Dialogue*

Venue to be confirmed

There is no cost for attending the seminars. For further information see the CD Qld website: www.cdqld.org or email one of the seminar organising group:

Ann Ingamells – a.ingamells@griffith.edu.au;

Tina Lathouras – t.lathouras@uq.edu.au

Ken Morris – ken@jabiru.org.au

Peter Westoby - p.westoby@uq.edu.au

Seminar One - What's Economics got to do with Community Development?

Wednesday 4th June, 2008

4 – 6pm

Griffith University South Bank Campus Building S07 Room 2.19
(Located behind the Ship Inn Tavern, near the Good Will Bridge)

Presenters: Belinda Drew and Ingrid Burkett (*Foresters ANA Mutual Society Ltd (FANA)*) and John Owen (*University of Queensland*)

Contemporary community work operates within a neo-liberal context in which managerialism, government funding and funding accountability create a range of limitations on a community's capacity to act in ways that create new and dynamic solutions to, at times, seemingly intractable problems.

The neo-liberal approach marks a significant shift away from community-based thinking regarding the functions and intended benefits of an economy. Contemporary models of economic thinking tends to downplay the value of collective behaviour and community well being. This flies in the face of centuries of economic thought where morality, community and the common good were once the norm. John Owen will be providing an historical overview of these themes.

Through case study material Foresters will bring to life a conceptual framework by defining its dimensions, from both a theoretical and practical perspective. The framework helps unlock and understand the role of economics in community development; and it builds synergies between community development and community economic development practice and in doing so, transforms the way we think about the problems communities face.

Ingrid BURKETT (B Soc Wk (Hons), M Bus, PhD)

Ingrid Burkett is the Community Education and Innovations Coordinator for Foresters ANA Mutual Society Ltd (FANA), IACD Oceania Representative, and Chairperson of Upatree Arts Co-operative. She has practiced, taught, researched and written about community economic development for over 15 years, both locally and internationally. She has worked across government, community and corporate sectors, and taught community development at the University of Queensland for eight years. Ingrid is the Oceania representative on the board of the International Association for Community Development and is recognised as one of Australia's experts in the fields of community and micro finance.

Belinda DREW (B Teach, B Soc Wk (Hons))

Belinda Drew has worked in the community sector in Queensland for over a decade in the areas of homelessness, disability, child protection and housing, holding a number of positions in social policy organisations. Belinda is the Chief Executive Officer of Foresters ANA Mutual Society Ltd (FANA). This role involves the day to day management of the organisation as well as leading the development of the FANA's program areas, which include community asset building. Belinda is interested to raise the profile of the work undertaken at FANA based on a belief that much can be gained from individual and collective action that synthesises social, community and economic objectives, in the ways that the program work of FANA attempts to do.

John OWEN (B.A, B SocScience (Hons), PhD)

John Owen is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Social Work and Human Sciences at the University of Queensland. He has worked in a variety of government and non-government organizations, primarily in the areas of youth, migration and settlement. His PhD research was in the history of economic ideas, with a focus on the normative foundations of economic theory and behavior.