

Starting a Local IACD Group



The IACD is an international not-for-profit, non government organisation committed to building a global network of people and organisations working toward social justice through community development.

The IACD encourages the formation of local groups or networks of people and organisations which support this vision in their local regions and communities. Local groups can support community development practice, and provide a space for learning and action. Networks are not necessarily constituted bodies – your group can become affiliated with the IACD without being constituted in its' own right.

Why start a local group?

Local groups can provide a platform for:

- ◆ Local networking;
- ◆ Action on local issues related to community development;
- ◆ Local activities and events;
- ◆ Learning and sharing of ideas;
- ◆ Local contributions to the international network;
- ◆ A creative and stimulating environment for the exchange of practice ideas and stories.



The benefits of affiliating your local group with the IACD:

By affiliating your group with the IACD your group will:

- ◆ **Gain access to information and research:**
Local groups receive complimentary copies of IACD publications

- ◆ **Discounted places at events:**
Local groups get a discounted place at IACD international and regional events.

- ◆ **A vote at the IACD Annual General Meeting**
- ◆ **Links to other local groups**
- ◆ **IACD support for local events and activities:**
Your regional director can assist in advertising your local events through the IACD membership.



Steps involved in starting a local group:

1. Build the energy and interest of local community development workers, researchers, managers, funders and organisations;
2. Make contact with your regional IACD Director and the IACD development officer;
3. Have an initial meeting to determine and formalise interest in establishing a local network or group;
4. Formalise the relationship with the IACD through completion and approval of the memorandum of understanding;
5. Plan some focus for the meetings;
6. Set off on your local group's journey and stay in touch with the IACD through annual reports, contact with your regional director, IACD newsletter and events.

The Story of an IACD Local Group: IACD Victorian Branch

The International Association of Community Development (IACD) is the international community development body with members in all continents and nations and regional representatives on the Board. It is recognised by the United Nations which has engaged representatives of the IACD to carry out projects in places such as Timor, Kosovo and Russia. The IACD program includes conferences and seminars locally, regionally and internationally. Ingrid Burkett, an academic, activist and local/global community development worker based in Queensland is our Oceania representative on the IACD Board.

The Victorian branch of the IACD arose out of the Deakin Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights first national community development conference which took place in Melbourne in 2004. A number of local community development activists and workers felt isolated in their sectoral networks, with little opportunity to connect across the networks and dialogue with others on broader common interests and issues. This was particularly important at a time of the resurgence of community development in its current reconstituted form of 'capacity building', accompanied by dilemmas of cooption, the blurring of critical thinking and the diminution of action for social change in favour of the 'welfare-ization' of community development. Where do community development activists go for support and strategising when their managerialist organisation prefers the 'containment' or 'domestication' (Friere), or more radical critiques and actions?

By late 2004 we had organised our first meeting at Trades Hall and worked on aims, structures and group processes. The Aims of the Network are:

- ◆ To gather regularly in a spirit of Community Development solidarity
- ◆ To promote the CD way – networking. Respect, mutual support, relatedness, critical thinking, action for structural change
- ◆ To discuss and debate CD action and theory (praxis) – Development of CD practice & ideals.
- ◆ To organise actions re CD approaches to current issues & social movements (eg community watch-dogs on the state of democracy
- ◆ To hold discussions where feasible eg forums, gatherings, campaigns, activism discussions, short courses, research, web site, writing, book discussions, speakers related to CD.
- ◆ To facilitate training & skills
- ◆ To link in at the broader level regarding joint or sectoral action/support/promotion of members issues & campaigns
- ◆ To engage in advocacy for members projects & issues
- ◆ To connect globally through the IACD and promote the CD Journal and conferences.
- ◆ Collaborative, supportive meetings run on Consensus decision Voting membership to be by full or joint membership of the IACD (International Association of Community Development) as auspice (providing legal & constitutional support). Vote if/when necessary to be by membership as defined above.

Since then we have met with our regional director, Ingrid Burkett, organised speakers, an action project on Human Rights as community development, and signed up members. This year we organised our meetings with a speaker on current community development issues and planning and strategy, alternating with a Learning Circle organised by members.

Most meetings to date have been at Friends of the Earth in Collingwood and Borderlands Cooperative. Future meetings are planned for a more central inner urban venue, the Carlton North Learning Centre. Members agreed that it is time to activate our aim of holding forums, gatherings, short courses and workshops on community development. At our May meeting we decided that the most favoured approach would be to hold bi-monthly Learning Circles. Discussions on issues as they relate to practice were: Local government in India, Skilled Migration - isolation & individualisation, "Trafficking in Women -Local/global Issues", local Government & Community Capacity Building - village issues in Cambodia and the Philippines, Citizens' Juries and Global Warming as they relate to community development.

With the support of the IACD Oceania representative, our branch has established a precedent within the International Association for Community Development, resulting in new guidelines to accommodate local collective branch membership in addition to their traditional individual and organisational membership.

Discussions with some New South Wales participants at the second Deakin Community Development Conference in April this year has led to the formation of a NSW branch of the IACD. Some of the original members of the Victorian branch were post graduate students from the Philippines on scholarships at Victoria University. Since returning home they have expressed interest in forming a local branch in the Philippines.

The IACD Victorian branch, in conjunction with Borderlands Cooperative organised the 'grass roots' workshops for the last Deakin CCHR national Community Development Conference. Ingrid Burkett's profile of the global/local/ aspects of the IACD attracted new members to the branch. Together with Borderlands Cooperative our branch has been once again approached by the Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights at Deakin regarding the proposed 2008 national conference on community development and ecology.

Needless to say there is no magic method. So much depends upon the context and key players. This is an emerging cyclical experience not a one size fits all or a procedure to be followed step by step. Like community development it is often confusing, messy and conflictual. But if you're keen and committed it's worth the journey. Realistically some of the barriers to groups getting started are that community development workers and activists are so busy and involved in their own specialist networks where the 24/7 commitments dominate our paradigm. It took a couple of starts before the first branch in Victoria took off and it's still an ongoing struggle.

Cate Kyne & Linette Hawkins
May 2007.

Draft Memo of Understanding between IACD and Local IACD Groups

Preamble

- 1) Groups that are interested and committed in the work of IACD are invited to establish a local group to promote IACD's work at a local level.

Membership Fees

- 2) Local groups will join at organisational rates.
- 3) Local groups will have one vote at AGM and benefit only once from membership discounts etc.
- 4) Individuals who are members of local groups may also join IACD at individual rates and retain full voting rights at AGM and associated membership discounts
- 5) Local groups will be allowed to retain up to 50% of the membership fee of individual members for the development of local groups.

Affiliation Process

- 6) Affiliation of local groups will be ratified by the Board on the case by case basis.
- 7) Statement requesting affiliation will need to be submitted to the Board. The IACD Executive may be delegated by the wider board to make decisions on its behalf so that applicants do not have to wait for a year for ratification.

Use of IACD Logo

- 8) IACD logo's should not be used by local groups without the express permission of the Board. The IACD Executive may be delegated by the wider board to make decisions on its behalf so that applicants do not have to wait for a year for permission.

Application Details

- 9) Requests for affiliation should be made at least 10 days before the next executive meeting. Dates of executive meetings are available from the IACD HQ or from info@iacdglobal.org
- 10) Requests for affiliation to Board should include the following details.

Name and Contact Details

Why would you like to affiliate with IACD?

What work do you propose to undertake as a local IACD group?

Who is the contact person for the group?

Please attach full contact details for this person.

Declaration by the group (or its representative) confirming that it supports the aims of IACD and the objectives of Community Development as a means of addressing poverty, disadvantage, injustice and inequality.

Agreement that all groups with current affiliation will be listed on the IACD website with the date of their affiliation stated.

Reporting System

- 11) Local groups are required to make a financial and activity report on their work annually. If no report is received status may be withdrawn by the Board after one year.

Insurance

- 12) Activity by IACD local groups is not currently covered by our insurance system. IACD recognises the burden that this places on small groups but is unable to provide public liability insurance for local groups at present.

We the undersigned agree to establish a local IACD group and in doing so agree to be bound by the terms outlined above.

Signed on behalf of local group

Signed on behalf of IACD

For Further Information about starting a local group in your community please contact your regional IACD director:

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Cari Patterson, (**North America**)
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Alex Ruhunda IACD President Elect (**East Africa**)
Alex is Director of Kabarole Research & Resource Center in Uganda and a well known Civil Society Leader across East Africa
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Mohammed Shakeel Abro, (**South Asia**)
At present Shakeel is working with a Multi Donor Supported National Organization SPO (Strengthening Participatory Organisation)
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Keith Popple, UK
Editor of Community Development Journal
