



## National Network of ABCDE Learning Sites (Australia) What is in it for us as a Community?

Participation in the National Network of ABCDE (Asset Based Community Driven Efforts) Learning Sites is a unique opportunity for any Australian community to intentionally start or deepen its community building efforts. The Project focuses on teams of local '*community builders*'- groups of 5-12 local residents willing to provide the leadership to instigate a series of community conversations and social interaction activities across their neighbourhood/small town that enables local residents to –

- Map, connect and celebrate community assets, capacities and opportunities;
- Use the mapping process and its discoveries to develop a community vision and action plan; and
- Lead and coordinate the implementation of actions that enable their community to be a more caring, inclusive, connected, safe and interesting place.

Every community is different. The ABCDE Learning Sites model seeks to respond to the uniqueness of each community. Bank of I.D.E.A.S. works closely with communities to ensure that the process implemented is tailored specifically for each community and, what that community hopes to achieve through the process.

The ABCDE Learning Sites approach draws on the experience and knowledge of BOI staff, ABCDE guides and on the invaluable experience of ABCD initiatives both within Australia and internationally.

### Pricing:

To become an ABCDE Learning Site member, the cost is \$1,500.00 per year (plus GST).

This includes –

- Access to the ABCDE Learning Sites online Toolkit (includes regular emails notifying members of resource updates and additions);
- Discounted or free access to training sessions for up to four members per learning site at workshops, conferences and training events held by the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. across Australia each year;
- Access to Peer-to-Peer learning sessions will be primarily facilitated through video conference sessions, and also through planned events (e.g. breakfast sessions or sundowners) that bring together practitioners, organisational staff and community members to share and converse about ABCDE in an informal setting; and
- Phone and video conferencing support from Bank of I.D.E.A.S. staff to help guide the process of establishing an ABCDE Learning Site within the chosen community. This allows practitioners an avenue to 'bounce ideas' off trained practitioners and seek practical advice.

If the process requires further outside expertise, the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. can recommend and provide a range of ABCDE Guides that can help facilitate the process. ABCDE Guides have a range of skill sets (see <https://www.abcdelearningsites.com.au/guides/>). An ABCDE Guide can be provided by the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. based on a day rate. Day rates vary for each Guide. Travel and accommodation costs are additional.

## Benefits for Participating Communities:

- Resources to strengthen existing community building initiatives and instigate new actions.
- Opportunity to be part of a national program operating across Australia – such participation will enable sharing with, and learning from a diverse range of other community action groups on the community building journey.
- Access to a skill training and mentoring opportunities, including on-line and real-time face to face facilitated Peer-to-Peer Learning Site sharing sessions, workshops and facilitated discussion forums.
- Peer-to-Peer learning sessions will be primarily facilitated through video conference sessions, and also through planned events (e.g. breakfast sessions or sundowners) that bring together practitioners, organisational staff and community members to share and converse about ABCDE in an informal setting.
- Access to a Project Website which will allow each community to have their own pages and access to a wide range of tools and experiences from across the country and globe.
- Access to a Tool Kit of practical tools, templates, support materials, videos, case studies and ‘How to...’ resources related to asset-mapping, facilitation tools, using local media, using digital technology, local leadership development, visioning, funding options and so much more.
- Support of a part time ‘*Community Connector*’ who can assist to facilitate the process with some organisational ‘arms and legs’. (Please note: the role of a community connector is not funded under ABCDE Learning Sites. Funding is recommended to ensure accountability, but it is not necessary).
- On the ground and video conferencing support, mentoring and trouble shooting from both internationally and nationally recognised ABCDE facilitators.
- Access to ‘*Social Reporter*’ training with a view to support the gathering and sharing of stories that emerge from the community, and an Evaluation Learning Framework to plot and promote the difference being made in the community.
- Discounted or free access to training sessions for up to four members per learning site at workshops, conferences and training events held by the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. across Australia each year.
- A tried and tested model that can be used as a tangible framework to seek support and funding to implement community building and strengthening initiatives within any community.

*‘Communities are incubators of innovation and are where our ‘can do’ spirit resides. In community lies hope and new opportunities for citizens to volunteer, celebrate, learn about their responsibilities and take action together.’*

(John W Gardiner)

*‘Community happens when people talk to each other.’*

(Becky McCray)

## For more information:

For further information, or to register interest, please contact Peter Kenyon (Bank of I.D.E.A.S.) at [pk@bankofideas.com.au](mailto:pk@bankofideas.com.au) or 0417183719 or Maria D’Souza on 0404 957 780 or [md@bankofideas.com.au](mailto:md@bankofideas.com.au)