

# Peter Kenyon: Bio-data Summary



Peter Kenyon is a social capitalist and community enthusiast. Over the last four decades he has worked with more than 2000 communities throughout Australia and overseas seeking to facilitate fresh and creative ways that stimulate community and local economic renewal. He is motivated by the desire to create healthy, caring, inclusive, connected, sustainable and enterprising communities and local economies.

Peter has had a background as a youth worker, teacher, youth education officer, tertiary lecturer and senior public servant. His employment experiences have included Director of Employment in Western Australia, Manager of the Community Employment Development Unit in New Zealand and Coordinator of the Natal Kwazulu Job Creation and Enterprise Strategy in South Africa.

Peter is convinced that one cannot develop communities from the top down or from the outside in. It requires communities to build from the inside out, and for their members to invest themselves, ideas, assets and resources in the process. Peter created the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. (Initiatives for the Development of Enterprising Action and Strategies) to promote such a paradigm shift and assist with the necessary facilitation, ideas and skills.

Peter's consulting work has resulted in assignments in 59 countries and all states of Australia. From 2004, Peter has spent part of each year working in a range of Middle East and/or North African countries assisting with the development of national youth policies and strategies.

Peter has authored 16 publications within the fields of community and economic development, youth policy development and youth enterprise, including the following diverse set of titles –

- *Creating Better Educational and Employment Opportunities for Rural Young People*
- *Youth Enterprise Matters: Involving Young People in their Economic Futures*
- *Survival and Revival in Rural Australia*
- *Taking the Lead: a Community Resource Kit for Local Economic Development*
- *The Small Town Renewal Kit*
- *Youth Policy Formulation Manual*
- *Good Enough Never Is – The Stories of 20 Exceptional and Inspirational Businesses in Rural Australia*
- *Building the Future Through Enterprise – Stories of Successful Indigenous Enterprises and Entrepreneurs.*

Since 2010, Peter's professional involvement illustrates his diverse interests in community, youth and economic development including –

- Unit coordinator at Marcus Oldham Institute for undergraduate and post graduate course in Rural Entrepreneurship.
- National Coordinator of the ABCDE Community Builders learning Sites Initiative across Australia.
- Chairperson of the International Council on National Youth Policy.
- Chairperson of the 'All We Need is Right Here' Initiative in Kalamunda, Western Australia.
- Co Convener of the annual National 'Power to the People' Conference and National Small Town Renewal Conference.
- Master Consultant/Trainer for the Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.
- Faculty Member of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute based at Northwestern University, Chicago.
- Project Director for the C.R.E.A.T.E Initiative (Creating Rural Entrepreneurial Attitudes through Education) and State Coordinator for R U MAD? (Are You Making a Difference?) Program.
- Keynote Presenter at 100+ conferences in Australia, USA, Canada, Africa, UK and New Zealand.

In 2001, Peter was awarded a Centenary Medal for services to rural Australia, and in 2017 was designated the West Australian Senior Person of the Year.



**THE BANK OF I.D.E.A.S**

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