



Age Well Stay Connected (Brisbane) Event 31/3/25

World Café Conversation on Libraries as Hubs for Social Connection

Key Themes	Participant Examples
Barriers to Access and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited knowledge, low literacy, or lack of digital skills. • Socio-economic constraints and transport challenges. • Resistance to accepting help and fear of change. • Limited trust in online or unfamiliar services.
Spaces and Places for Connection and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries serve as vital hubs for social connection, offering spaces and programs that foster belonging. • Support both in-person and online engagement. • Promote connection, wellbeing, and access to reliable information. • Provide informal, low-pressure opportunities that build trust, purpose, and a sense of belonging. • Regular, meaningful engagement strengthens individuals' sense of value and inclusion.
Strengthening Connection and Belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide social, recreational, and educational activities that help reduce hesitation and build confidence. • Offer programs that support personal resilience and community outreach. • Connect people through book clubs, hobbies, support groups, and regular check-ins. • Ensure inclusive access to information, education, and key services (e.g., legal, community, advocacy). • Strengthen social connection through cross-sector collaboration, inclusive engagement, and training programs.

Ideas generated to inform future initiatives and collaboration included:

- **Libraries as Community Connectors:** Future programs could use library spaces and activities (clubs, hobbies, and group events) to encourage meaningful social connections; support wellbeing and serve as a central information hub.
- **Accessible Information and Support:** Libraries can offer guidance, information, and referrals to other services (e.g., legal help, advocacy, community centres) through different methods, including in-person, online, and phone
- **Inclusive Engagement and Collaboration:** Opportunities to promote welcoming, supportive interactions, cross-sector collaborations, and training, outreach, and regular check-ins to strengthen community connections.