



Age Well Stay Connected (Longreach) Event 10/10/25

World Café Conversation on Building Inclusive Communities: Collaboration and Partnerships

Key Themes	Participant Examples
Barriers to Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageism and under-recognition of older adults' abilities • Reluctance to volunteer • Limited community feedback on events and activities • Low participation impacted by weather • Transport barriers and venue accessibility • Limited digital access (e.g., only 4/168 clients have email) • Hearing loss: provide closed captions • Timing, duration and venue choice affect participation • Adjust start/finish times (e.g., 8.30am to 11.30am) • Health tourism affecting local access, success stories include new dialysis machine at local hospital enabling travel/holiday)
Community Involvement and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance affected by weather and communication • Promote via social media, flyers, notices, community noticeboards • Council-funded Seniors Month activities well attended and delivered in partnership with local orgs/groups (e.g., RSL, local cafés) • Pubs and informal meeting places are effective hubs • Provide pre-paid envelopes for surveys to increase responses
Intergenerational Activities and Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs involving young children (early childhood, school visits) increase engagement (e.g., Cinderella Spinderella, Bringing in Laughter, Parents and Grandparents Day, NAIDOC day, Christmas crafts, Meals on Wheels visits) • Engagement often depends on teacher or facilitator motivation • Opportunities to collaborate with schools/orgs (e.g., Bolton Clarke)
Partnerships & Collaborations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster cross-sector partnerships: councils, local organisations, community groups, schools, clubs, churches, NFPs • Leverage council-led events, wellness programs, and community initiatives to expand participation • Council-funded Seniors Month events are well attended and involve collaboration (RSL, Whitmans café, Yarrabah and Ilfracombe pubs) • Other examples: Pioneer Home & HACCC transport support, Wellness Fest and Winton 60 & Better, Community Expo, WQ Drought Appeal, NFP sports events, U3A, Scouts & Guides, sports clubs
Volunteer Engagement and Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement can be limited by volunteer compliance, fatigue, or low confidence • Encourage short-term volunteering and “<i>just give it a go</i>” mindset • Community mentors and local champions are key • Recruiting older volunteers can be challenging; may require flexible, low-commitment options

Ideas generated to inform future initiatives and collaboration included:

- **Strengthen partnerships and Collaboration:** Build strong connections with high schools, local councils, sports clubs, churches, and not-for-profits, leveraging broader networks such as Volunteering Queensland. Coordinate local partnerships, share knowledge across sectors, and explore funding opportunities to expand reach, participation, and community impact.
- **Enhance Volunteering and Mentoring:** Provide flexible, skill-based, and short-term volunteer opportunities, alongside mentorship programs and pop-up information stalls. Collaborate with Volunteering Queensland to recruit, support, and recognise volunteers, and promote meaningful intergenerational engagement.
- **Improve Accessibility and Engagement:** Ensure activities are held in accessible venues, at convenient times, and supported with transport solutions where needed. Promote events across multiple communication channels (digital and non-digital) to maximise participation, strengthen connections, and increase engagement across schools, community groups, and sector partners.

