

SETS Community of Practice

Communique: First meeting of the Community Capacity Building sub-group

Videoconference – 20 August 2020

On 20 August, the SETS Community of Practice (SETS CoP) held its first meeting for members of the Community Capacity Building (CCB) sub-group.

Terms of Reference and Interaction Rules

Attendees agreed with the updated SETSCoP Terms of Reference (TOR) and Interaction Rules, there were no amendments suggested.

Current challenges

Members of the sub-group shared some of the current challenges they are facing in supporting communities. Attendees discussed confusion around whether they can engage and support community leaders who have resided in Australia for over 5 years, under SETS, in addition to challenges with recording of unidentified clients. Other attendees provided clarity through the DEX protocols and recent Department of Home Affairs DEX Q&A document.

Majority of attendees noted that there is not a clear definition of what makes a community leader or what defines CCB. Many providers shared working closely with informal community leaders and strengthening their capacity.

Moreover, the challenge for CCB in regional settings or with smaller community groups was highlighted, particularly in the context of the current international border closures.

Areas of focus

Attendees noted value in sharing best practice approaches for CCB through this national platform, and highlighted the necessity for the sharing to encompass not only successes but also the learnings and challenges that providers have experienced when supporting communities. This transparency and openness in sharing would be of greatest benefit when conversational and through focusing on key themes for each meeting.

Some of the themes proposed by the sub-group include:

- digital literacy
- COVID-19
- engagement strategies
- regional/smaller communities
- how to work with intracommunity challenges
- empowerment and strengths-based approaches
- funding/grants
- strategies to ensure sustainability

- co-design approaches

Other business

One provider shared of the Lebanese crisis and its impact on the Lebanese, Syrian and Iraqi community in Australia. This provider is offering counselling and other supports to these communities through this time (please see contacts under “Resources shared” for more information).

Next Meeting

The next CCB sub-group meeting will focus on sharing of best practice and learnings relating to improving digital literacy, engagement strategies and how to work with intra-community challenges to ensure sustainability.

Prior to this meeting, attendees will be asked to share their definitions on what defines a community leader and what is CCB. Additionally, attendees will make comment on their preference for frequency of these meetings, as some proposed more frequent CCB meetings.

Resources shared

- [SETSCoP Terms of Reference and Interaction Rules](#)
- [Arabic Welfare Beirut Crisis Support \(Arabic Welfare League\)](#)
- [Be Connected \(Australian Government\)](#)
- [Building Safe Communities for Women and Their Children: A compendium of stories from the field \(ANROWS\)](#)