



Australian Government
Department of Families, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

The Government's Role in Promoting the Power of Community

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Improving the lives of Australians



Overview of Presentation

1. Social policy changes and emerging trends
2. Collaborating as a member of the social coalition
3. Questions and challenges in working with communities



Social Policy Changes

- Community settings
- Income support and services
- Active social intervention
- Tailored assistance
- Government playing a more catalytic role
- Greater role for NGOs



Working with Indigenous Communities

- A whole of government approach
- Shared Responsibility Agreements
- Address root causes of problems with the help of local communities



Communities for Children – Local Engagement

- Take account of family, community and broader social context
- New non-government role – “Facilitating Partners”
- Utilise the expertise of local communities
- Clear policy framework



Questions and Challenges

1. How can we further strengthen the community sector and assist community organisations to maximise the positive outcomes from their efforts?



Questions and Challenges

2. How do we know that we are doing good work and that we are achieving positive outcomes for the communities in which we work?



Questions and Challenges

3. How can we promote active community involvement and help to keep individuals motivated and involved? Or, to refer back to our conference theme, how can we increase the ‘power of one’ for the benefit of all?



Conclusion

Given the continued rapid pace of social change and highly differentiated needs of Australian individuals, families and communities, social interventions will need to be agile, flexible and more integrated.