



Project



Civic engagement practices and outcomes: An evaluation of Community Renewal in Victoria

Partner



Department of Planning and Community Development

Year

2011

Purpose



The specific research aims for the project were to identify:

1. The nature of the relationship between individuals' motives and involvement in DPCD Community Renewal (CR) and Community Building Initiatives (CBI) projects, perceived organisational support, and perceptions of wellbeing, social inclusion and connectedness;
2. How involvement in volunteering in DPCD CR projects impacts on the social connectedness and social inclusion experienced by individuals and their subsequent wellbeing; and
3. The role of DPCD CR projects in facilitating or supporting social inclusion and connectedness of individuals.

Method



The research was carried out in two stages comprising a survey of volunteers involved in all CR and CBI programs and a series of interviews with volunteers from six CR programs.

The first stage of the project measured the relationship between volunteer motives, involvement, perceived social and organisational support and wellbeing, social inclusion and social connectedness. The sample consisted of individual volunteers involved in 8 CR and 8 CBI projects throughout Victoria.

The second stage of the project involved fieldwork to gather in-depth qualitative data (22 semi-structured face to face interviews) related to the second and third aims of the project.

Application



Several conclusions were made in relation to the three research aims. Conclusions were made about volunteer motives, their perceived support and valuing, and their wellbeing and connectedness. Conclusions were drawn about the impact of CR projects in facilitating social networks among volunteers and the personal benefits derived from volunteering for a CR project.

