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Maleny Neighbourhood Centre Association Inc. Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020

We see MNC as a welcoming multifunctional community space in the heart of Maleny that provides opportunities for community connection and well being for young people, families and the broader community.

To achieve this vision we will continue to:

- Build MNC as a vibrant, dynamic, ethical, sustainable and effective organisation that is driven by the local community.
- Work with local organisations and agencies to meet our community's needs

In doing this we will:

- Respect, care for and support our members, staff and volunteers;
- Work collaboratively with community groups and individuals;
- Develop partnerships based on mutual respect;
- Create innovative responses to poverty and disadvantage;
- Identify community needs
- Organise and deliver projects with community members;
- Advocate to local, state and commonwealth governments to improve services to our area;
- Share our resources with the wider community, particularly those who are marginalised and disadvantaged;
- Make our facilities available to other groups in a spirit of cooperation;
- Provide a safe space for new groups to emerge;
- Provide the role of auspice for new and emerging groups;
- Support our volunteers with training and rewards to enhance their participation with our programs;
- Celebrate diversity;
- Encourage participation;
- Provide access to services.

All our actions and interactions will express our values of:

- Respect
- Caring
- Compassion
- Acceptance
- Cooperation
- Safety

- Participation
- Equality
- Celebration

The Next Three Years

During the next three years we will pay particular attention to the community focussed areas listed below, which were identified through community consultation as part of our Strategic Directions Review.

The review also highlighted priority organisational areas that are crucial for MNC to effectively meet community needs. We will continue to focus on these areas and to expand or develop them further.

Community focussed

Affordable short and long term housing

Actions:

Continue collaboration / partnership with CHASM.
Continue support and facilitation through ER program.
Raise awareness about homelessness and need for affordable housing.

Mental Health and Addictions

Actions:

Continue to offer inclusive activities.
Source drug and alcohol programs targeted to teens and workshops to parents.
Attract service provider delivering mental health counselling.
Raise awareness of suicide prevention and support groups working to prevent suicide and/or providing support for people who have been affected by suicide.

Youth and Teen

Actions:

Assess feasibility of a youth bus service with Jenny McKay, Sunshine Coast Council.
Collaborate with local service organisation to form partnership.
Investigate potential for a part-time Youth Worker.
Investigate possible options for a 'Hang-out' space for teens outside school hours.

Social Isolation including Ageing People and Women

Actions:

Collaborate and partner with local organisations offering social inclusion and support services e.g. Blackall Range Care, Erowol Aged Care, Carers Support Group, Maleny District Senior Citizens' Club.
Open conversations with Sunstone Gardens, Maleny Grove.

Indigenous Engagement

Actions:

Develop collaborative and partnership arrangements with local indigenous community.
Directly involve indigenous representatives in the Centre's operations.

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Maleny Neighbourhood Centre focussed

Promotion and communication within the Local Community

Actions:

Centre Coordinator and Development Worker to make presentations to local community and service groups.

Hold quarterly breakfasts for different community groups.

Provide articles for local papers to highlight what MNC does and the benefits.

Purchase MNC branded shirts for staff and volunteers to increase visibility of Centre.

Use a tool such as MailChimp to send targeted communications to groups about MNC initiatives and activities.

Make MNC a hub for funding (non-government).

Broad Range Emergency Relief Policy

Actions:

Improve promotion of the need for ER and MNC's response.

Streamline referral procedure to make sure those needing referral receive one.

Find creative ways to have private spaces to sit with ER customers e.g. develop outdoor areas more with concrete and tables and chairs under umbrella areas, Purchase half demountable building.

Linkages with Community Groups

Actions:

Hold quarterly breakfasts as mentioned above.

Send regular MailChimp communications about MNC initiatives and activities.

Invite speakers from community and service organisations to talk at monthly Volunteer meetings.

Ask volunteers who are members of service organisations to talk to their organisation.

Develop a list of 'possible 'strategic partners' in the community and roster staff and committee members to speak at their meetings.

High School Integration

Actions:

Develop relationship with new High School Chappy.

Volunteer Involvement

Actions:

Continue volunteer recruitment and training activities

Use volunteer database to match volunteers to specific activity e.g. Events.

Additional Funding

Actions:

Source pilot project funding for projects from philanthropic organisations, consortiums and corporations.

We are committed to enriching lives and building a strong community.

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