

Community Centre Guidelines

Fact Sheet

Community centres play an important role in our communities. They provide places where people from a range of backgrounds and interests can interact, learn, recreate, be supported and grow. In many areas, they are the focus of socially sustainable communities.

About the guidelines

The Community Centre Guidelines have been prepared to support those involved in the planning, design and operation of community centres. The document contains information about what makes a successful community centre, and outlines practical steps for consideration in planning, designing and delivering, and operating these facilities. They have been developed in consultation with our State

and local government partners and reflect the collective experience and expertise of those who have planned, designed and managed community centres for many years.

Landcom will be using these guidelines to encourage the development and ongoing operation of high quality community centres in its projects.

Overall principles for successful community centres

Community centres range from small community halls and meeting rooms available for use by the community, to large multipurpose centres that incorporate a wide range of services and facilities. The Landcom Community Centre Guidelines include an outline of principles that contribute to the making of successful centres, regardless of scale. They include:

- Addressing local community needs and promoting social outcomes
- Providing a range of community services, activities and programs
- Contributing to the public domain and sense of place
- Sustainable funding, management and maintenance arrangements
- Equitable access
- Supporting community cohesion
- Developing a strong local profile
- Involving the community

- Working collaboratively
- Promoting physical integration
- Ensuring flexibility and adaptability
- Ensuring integrated planning.



byron bay community & cultural centre



grange community centre



belconnen community centre



redfern community house



mawson centre



noosa youth and community centre



pathways learning and leisure centre



blacktown leisure centre



Guidelines for planning a community centre, design and delivery, and operation

The guidelines include key tasks required at each of these stages.

Planning – successful community centres require rigorous and thoughtful planning of a range of issues affecting the future role, function, funding, size, and location of the facility. The factors need to be considered in an integrated, rather than sequential way.

Design and delivery – when planning for new or growing communities, we have a unique opportunity to maximise the potential social benefits of a

community centre by ensuring its design: enables the centre to respond to community needs; strengthens its presence in the community; is functional and practical; promotes the efficient use of resources and effective delivery of services.

Operation – providing a well located and designed building does not in itself guarantee that a community centre will be successful in achieving the desired social outcomes. A variety of operational factors are critical to ensuring that the centre serves the community well and becomes a dynamic place for people to use.

Community Centre Ideas Bank

The guideline include a CD-ROM with case studies of 13 community centres around Australia which is downloadable from www.landcom.com.au/theguidelines. Chosen because they are examples of innovative approaches with good social outcomes,

the case studies consider the location and access arrangements, facility description, capital funding and operation budget, range of programs and services, management arrangements, success factors and lessons learned.



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