

Facilitating Conversations that Matter!

Overview

Often our conversations and planning with people who have a disability and others who have needs often focuses on what people can't do or finding "services" to fill people's lives. This workshop aims to enhance your ability to **facilitate** deeper conversations which assist individuals to develop real and sustainable connection in their neighbourhoods and communities.

Topics covered in this workshop include:

- Creative facilitation skills,
- Doing work that matters,
- Creating vision,
- Embracing diversity, values and community,
- Exploring valued roles,
- Facilitating Circles of Support,
- Bringing life to meetings,
- Disrupting patterns of thinking and resistance,
- Getting unstuck, and
- Connecting people and ideas.

Participants will also hear some "real life" stories about people who have a Circle of Support. This is a practical workshop and will use interactive exercises, reflection and discussion!

Who is this workshop for?

This workshop would be of interest to those who facilitate Circles of Support, team meetings or planning meetings that aim to increase the inclusion of people who might be marginalised from the community e.g. people with a disability, people who have a mental illness, people who are aging etc.

Feedback from this workshop

Practical, real, disruptive, grounded, great space, learning gap filled, internal expansion, gift of information to integrate, how to access the group wisdom, lots of real techniques, courage to try new exercises, energising, new tools, valued roles, ideas to put into practice, sharing space, problem solving, reflective, sharing ideas, creative and educational, hearing all the different perspectives, it was also really good to have Teresa and Deb as such great role models for facilitation, I learned to step back and allow the conversation to flow, interactive, informative, welcoming, person centred, engaging, reflective, effective facilitation, embedded inclusionary practices, discovery, gently held, excellent, fantastic, enlightening.



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Presenters

Deb Rouget is the CEO of Belonging Matters. For nearly 30 years, she has been involved in the lives of people with a disability and their families and has gained much practical experience and wisdom about imagining and designing supports that enable people with a disability to have typical opportunities in the community. Through her work at Belonging Matters, she instigated the Building Community Networks project which facilitates Circles of Support. In this project, through actively facilitating a number of Circles of Support, Deb has learnt what it takes to establish, maintain and harness people's enthusiasm and skills to enable a full, meaningful and inclusive life.

Teresa Micallef has always chosen to work at the cutting edge of change in community, and has worked alongside people with disabilities and their families for over 20 years. She has been the Coordinator of a family governed service called Living Distinctive Lives for the past 9 years. Currently she is the Project Manager of Building Community Networks and has been impressed by the power, creativity and resilience of people who experience disability, their families and networks. In just a short time, she has seen the incredible impact of engaging positively with a person's Circle of Support and how it can lead to the creation of a good life and safeguard the future.

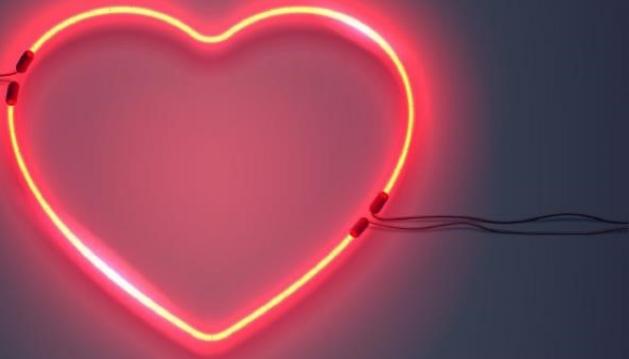
Learning outcomes

This course will enable participants to:

- Define the intentions of creative facilitation,
- Embed facilitation in values and inclusionary based practices,
- Identify and discern the key dimensions of creative facilitation,
- Illustrate key methods and tools for creative facilitation,
- Identify ways to disrupt patterns of thinking,
- Identify and use collective wisdom, and
- Enhance listening skills

Teaching methods

- Practical exercises
- Presentation of theory and methods via Powerpoint
- Discussion
- Brainstorming
- Individual reflection and group work
- Sharing inspiring "real life" stories of people who have developed Circles of Support
- Handouts



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Duration

One day (9.30am-4.30pm)

Cost

Melbourne based

Under 15 participants - AU\$1300.00 (Plus GST)

15-40 participants - AU\$2,400 (Plus GST).

Plus travel, meal and accommodation costs if required.

Guest speakers can be arranged at an extra cost to share their personal story e.g. family members. Variations can be arranged. Reductions may be negotiated for individuals or family groups

For further information

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