

The Bridges Network Approach

Strengthening relationships, resilience, and systems for addressing drug related harm

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Presentation



Social Determinants of Drug Use

Family, Community, Organisational Systems

Bridges, small organisation

The Bridges Network Approach (BNA)

The Bridges Network Approach



Systems/Context – help bring about supportive environments

Building on Strengths

Working Together

Promoting Voices

Social Determinants of Drug Use



“Drug prevention efforts have historically focused on changing drug-use behaviour by changing individual risk factors... Programs have tended to be simplistic, on the basis that if a single risk factor can be addressed then drug use and abuse can be prevented.

...programs have tried to increase knowledge about the dangers of drug use or increase skills to resist drug use. However, drug-use behaviours are the result of a complex interplay of individual and environmental factors that operate across the life-span, at multiple levels of the environment (for example situational, family, local community and national).”

Social determinants of drug use, Spooner and Hetherington, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, 2004, p 21–22)

BNA promotes systems and structures to :



Recognise interrelatedness/overlap/context

e.g. drug problems, child protection, family, poverty, isolation, social disconnection, silos, marginalised communities

Make the most of resources

Support social inclusion

Support increased connectivity, coordination
and collaboration

Facilitate initiative and leadership
at every level of our society

Bridges, using the BNA

What we do



Strengthen Families, Communities, Networks

Address Alcohol and other Drug Issues

Address other challenges facing our communities

Using the BNA

Who we have worked with



Children, young people, adults, families, communities

Diverse communities, incl. Indigenous, African,
and other cultures

Organisational networks

What the experts say



“By working in partnership with other agencies, Bridges has been able to expand the options available for its clients and programs as well as enhance the programs of other organisations.....”

Bridges is to be congratulated for working to address the complexity of drug problems.

Dr Catherine Spooner, University of NSW, Co-author of *Social Determinants of Drug Use*

“...the Bridges’ approach represents a beacon of inclusiveness.”

Dr Peter Shergold

Macquarie Group Foundation Professor at the Centre for Social Impact

Counselling



COUNSELLING done at the following locations...

Bridges – Flushcombe Road

Riverstone Outreach

Aboriginal Medical Service – Mt DrUITT

Holy Family Outreach – Emerton

What helps Kids Grow Strong Workshops and Training



Developed and conducted by Peter Slattery

Partnerships with:

Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney
Marist Youth Care
Doonside Health

Partnerships with Doonside Hub, Doonside Public School and other organisations



Supported Kids Club
co-ordinated by Doonside Hub

Sponsored Doonside Blokes Event,
co-ordinated by Doonside Hub

“What helps Kids Grow Strong”
Workshops for Parents
Training for community and government
workers

Training for teachers at
Doonside Public School



Counselling and Groupwork attended by
Doonside residents

Partnerships with SydWest Multicultural Services,
Liverpool PCYC , Blacktown Council, Mt Druitt
Mission Australia Links to Learning, and other orgs



Discovery Challenge DVD Voices of African and other culturally diverse young people



Partnership with Shalvey High and Short Black Films



Shalvey High DVD
on friendship, school community and
drug issues



Partnerships with Mt Druitt Indigenous Church and Willmot Public School



Willmot is the place to be **Indigenous Children's Photovoice Project**

Workshops with the children – 8 weeks

Booklet (also on website)

Launch

Led to whole of school project and
presentation on National Indigenous TV



Further work with Mt Druitt Indigenous Church



PhotoVoice Training with adults

Parenting workshops “What helps Kids Grow Strong” Peter Slattery Training

Accredited training in child protection– 8 leaders - Mt Druitt TAFE

Training in narrative work - Dulwich Centre leaders from Adelaide

Empowerment, reduced isolation – through storying work

Consultation - Acknowledging their skills and knowledge

Planned

Visioning filmwork project with Future Journeys

Bridges AGM/Event at the Indigenous Church

Church Leaders Story



Sharing her story with her community

Employment

Childcare service Awards

Speaking engagements

Feedback



Bridges has enabled us to grow as people, supported our church members and encouraged us to stand on our own two feet. We feel welcomed at Bridges and Bridges is welcome in our church. They make us feel relaxed and we feel part of the family.

Kayleen Manton, Pastor, Mt Druitt Indigenous Church

“an innovative and flexible approach to working on issues related to drug and alcohol use, as well as the potential to be used in a range of other contexts.”

Frazer Howard and Partners, Evaluators

The Bridges Network Approach



System/Context – influence supportive environments

Building on Strengths

Working Together

Promoting Voices

The Bridges Network Approach



Makes the most of resources

Recognises interrelatedness/overlap/context
e.g. drug issues, child wellbeing, family, isolation, connectedness

Facilitates initiative and leadership
at every level of our society

Supports increased connectivity, coordination
and collaboration

Supports social inclusion

Why might the BNA be useful for you ?



Common ideas are put together in one approach

Implementation by Bridges and our partners

Degree of inclusiveness

Efficient, integrated, innovative use of resources

In its entirety its an approach for a network, inclusive of small and large organisations

Bridges Context



- Challenging funding environment
- Compartmentalised structures
- Invisibility of small
- Temporary funding
 - annual redundancy threats
 - near closure

Where are we going?



Progress work in Blacktown LGA

Share and collaborate for use in other LGAs

Share the BNA for issues broader than addressing alcohol and other drug issues

Coming soon



Report “ **The Bridges Network Approach** : Strengthening relationships, resilience, and systems for addressing drug related harm and other challenges our families and communities are facing”

With forewords by
Dr Peter Shergold and Dr Catherine Spooner

And Bridges Evaluation Report by Frazer Howard and partners

Bridges Website



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» [Bridges Manager talks about Bridges Network Approach](#)



Bridges in a nutshell

Bridges works to connect and strengthen individuals, families and communities. At the same time we address challenges facing our communities. In particular we work to prevent and reduce harm related to alcohol and other drug use.

Bridges uses [The Bridges Network Approach](#) which is [a Social Innovation](#).

Important Links



www.bridges.org.au