

LIVING ROOM PROJECT

Organisations Involved & Contact Details

Organisation:	Palmerston City Council (NT)
Contact:	Paula Johnson
Phone:	(08) 8935 9943
Email:	paula.johnson@pcc.nt.gov.au

Aims & Target Group

Aim: The aim of this project was to promote community harmony to people from all cultural backgrounds and ages in the Palmerston community by undertaking a major cultural development project including forums, workshops, events and multimedia products.

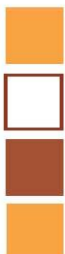
Target Group: Located in the Top End of the Northern Territory, Palmerston has a large population of indigenous people (approx 12%), a significant number of community members from non-Anglo backgrounds and a large military community. These sections of the community often did not mix with one another. Fostering harmony within the community had at times been difficult and this was compounded by the media targeting anti-social behavior and conflict. There were clearly sections of the community that did not cross paths. The Living Room Project was a chance to change perceptions and bring people together in a safe, positive and creative environment.

Project Description & Components

The Palmerston City Council presented a major community and cultural development project, **Living Room culminating in a** celebration of Harmony Day in 2004. The Palmerston City Council plan seeks concrete outcomes for the community in areas such as, Learning and Cultural opportunity, increased community participation, high quality support services, improved access and a promotion of a sense of place.

The library, where most of the Living Room project took place, took into consideration all of these areas. The project consisted of:

- Three community forums based on racial, intergenerational and inter-faith harmony topics
- The production of a children's picture e-book
- The work-shopping and engineering of 13 original community harmony songs onto CD
- The editing and screening of a 5-minute film and the presentation of a concert and e-book launch.





Process

The project was driven by a steering committee that represented a diverse range of people from the community including multicultural and indigenous communities, schools, police defense, religious groups, parents and youth groups.

It facilitated opportunities for a range of community member to participate. It provided stimulating, active and creative ways for the community to work together and opportunities to meet, interact and decide about ongoing cultural activities.

The team employed Indigenous and non-indigenous artists to work in residence with the community. Respect and goodwill were fostered through the process of organising and executing the project.

Local businesses provided hospitality and facilities for the project.

This project provided immediate access to strong support networks within the community, particularly for new migrants. The community was involved in every aspect of the project with residents taking on a wide variety of roles as committee representatives, forum and workshop participants, performers, planners, creators, promoters, caterers, facilitators and supporters.

Outcomes

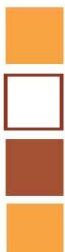
This project provided opportunities for the community to make decisions about on going future activities, it provided a platform to welcome new immigrants into community activity, it created a stimulating atmosphere that provided the perception of Palmerston as culturally diverse, welcoming place to live and work.

It supported business from culturally diverse backgrounds. The Living Room project was a large scale multi faceted project that could be transferred to other local government areas. If other areas did not want to adopt the whole project, they could also adopt particular components of the project. These could include: the development of an original music CD, development of an interactive educational E-book, documenting projects through film making, creative workshop programs.

Challenges & Obstacles

Funding

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs Living in Harmony program.





Images

