

Author PIM KUIPERS

Date Time 23/05/2003 04:38

Subject Community Involvement

Some concepts that we have used in a research project in Australia which may have some implication for gaining a sense of community involvement are as follows. We tried to gain examples (which were evidence of - positively or negatively - the following (and other) characteristics: 1 Network Partnerships Does the CBR project have effective links with other organisations in the community? 2 Balance of Product & Process - Does the CBR project balance their focus on tangible events and outcomes (products), with efforts to ensure relationship building (process)? 3 Knowledge Transfer - Does the CBR project transfer knowledge and skills (to people within the project, to community members and to other organisations) to meet local need and enhance programme viability and sustainability? 4 Human, Intellectual & Social Investments - The strength and sustainability of a CBR programme is influenced by the degree of human, intellectual & social investments made by outsiders and those in the community. Does the CBR project show evidence of these investments? 6 Community Focus - The likelihood of success of CBR programmes is substantially influenced by the extent of their community focus. Do the activities and outputs (minutes of meetings, interviews, etc) of the CBR project show evidence of this focus? Social Cohesion - The success of CBR programmes is substantially influenced by the strength of inter-relationships within the community and social reciprocity. Do the activities and outputs (minutes of meetings, interviews, etc) of the CBR project show evidence of such cohesion? Communication System - A well developed system of communication (internally and with the local community) is important for the establishment of a viable programme such as this. Do the activities and outputs (minutes of meetings, interviews, etc) of the CBR project show evidence of such communication? Community Building Skills - Successful community building efforts are more likely to occur when participants receive training to increase their skills, particularly community building skills. Does the CBR project show evidence of such skill development? Community Control over Decision making - Successful community building efforts more likely to occur when residents have control over decisions, particularly over how funds are used. Does the CBR project show evidence of such community control over decision making? Relationship of Trust - Successful CBR and community building projects are characterised by relationships of trust. Does the CBR project show evidence of such relationships of trust?