

DOCUMENT TYPE	Policy
TITLE	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
NUMBER:	POL-3001

## PURPOSE

To implement a Community Development approach which empowers and strengthens the Community, encourages collaborative practices and celebrates the diversity of our Community.

## DEFINITIONS

**Community:** There are many definitions of the term community. For the purpose of this Policy, 'Community' refers to the people living, working, and visiting within the spatial boundaries of the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.

**Community Services:** Community services and facilities targeted to support the general community, or particular groups within the community including but not limited to:

Children and youth;

- Seniors;
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- Aboriginal people; and
- People with disability

**Community Resilience:** The ability of a community to bounce back from adversity.

**Strong Community:** A community that is able to meet the needs of its members.

Increasing the ability of the community to self-support, for the community to have the capability to meet its own needs.

**Community Empowerment:** Enabling the community to increase control over their lives. Community involvement in the provision of infrastructure and services that leads to a sense of ownership.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley will:

- Effectively engage with the community to establish wants and needs.
- Thoroughly explore the wants and needs of the community including:
  - Identifying the appropriate Shire role in addressing these wants and needs;
  - Identifying any gaps or duplication in service provision;
  - Prioritising these wants and needs;
  - Identifying best practice for addressing community needs and service provision; and
  - Scrutinising and documenting the financial and resource implications of the provision of community services, facilities and initiatives including whole of life costs

- Document these wants and needs via the Strategic Community Plan and more broadly, through the Shire's Integrated Planning Framework.
- Develop and maintain strategies for key aspects of Community Services that are incorporated as informing strategies in the Shire's Integrated Planning Framework.

These Strategies include:

- Youth Services;
  - Disability Access and Inclusion;
  - Community Safety;
  - Seniors;
  - Recreation and Leisure
  - Public Open Space; and
  - Arts and Culture
- Ensure the development, management and operation of community facilities is strategic and planned with continuous improvement sought.
  - Build the capacity of the community and support the development and/or maintenance of a diverse range of external services delivered by the community-based sector through:
    - Facilitating community leases;
    - Providing financial support through the Community Grant Program;
    - Providing community facilities;
    - Assisting external organisations to build resilience and good governance; and
    - Reducing barriers to organisations being able to carry out their community functions where possible.
  - Collaborate with other agencies, organisations and groups promoting partnership approaches to service delivery.

Outcomes:

- Support a wide variety of high-quality services available within the Shire;
- Increased community strength and resilience; and
- Effective and efficient Shire community service delivery.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Local Government responsibility for Community Services is very broadly given by the Local Government Act 1995:

3.18 (2)

*In performing its essential functions, a local government may provide services and facilities.*

3.18 (3)

*A local government is to satisfy itself that services and facilities that it provides –*

- integrate and coordinate, so far as practicable, with any provided by the Commonwealth, the State or any public body;*
- do not duplicate, to an extent that the local government considers inappropriate, services or facilities provided by the Commonwealth, the State any other body or person, whether public or private; and*
- are managed efficiently and effectively.*

In a broad sense, the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley is not legislatively bound to provide specific community services. It is therefore at Councils' discretion which services are provided and the level of service offered.

It is important for the Community, and Shire to have a wide range of high-quality services available within the Community. These services can improve the quality of life for residents through:

- Improving health and wellbeing;
- Increasing general happiness and enjoyment;
- Improving the local economy; and
- Increasing community safety.

The needs (and wants) of any community are often varied and extensive. In addition, community needs are often complex. Given that resources are finite it is typically not possible to meet everyone's wants and needs.

With such complexity, it is essential that the Shire has a strategic approach and clear procedures for delivering community services. This Policy provides strategic direction for Council and Shire staff on the manner in which the Shire will approach Community Development for the community of the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.

A key component of this Policy is the recognition that the Shire does not need to provide all of these services; it is the Shire's role to create an environment where these services are present within the Community. This is done through building the capacity of the Community.

As detailed within the Department for Local Government and Communities document "Community Development: A Guide for Local Members" (August 2015):

*Community Development needs to:*

- Allow for the identification of local needs;
- Support the voicing of local concerns;
- Facilitate flexibility, autonomy and local control of community groups; and
- Enable people to 'do things' at a local level to improve their communities.

## RISK

**Risk:** Failure to comply with legislative requirements leading to damage of reputation and/or financial loss.

**Control:** Review policies and procedures in accordance with review schedule.

## DOCUMENT AND VERSION CONTROL

<b>Responsible Directorate</b>	Planning and Community Development		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager Community Development		
<b>Statutory References</b>	Local Government Act 1995, Sections 3.1 and 3.1		
<b>Related Documents</b>	PSF-3002 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan POL-3002 Community Grant Program POL-3000 Community Engagement POL-2002 Strategic Rating		
<b>Amendment History (Adoption and last 3 amendments)</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date Issued - Resolution Number</b>	<b>Item #</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>
1.0	22/06/2010 - 9197	12.5.1	Council Adoption
2.0	31/05/2016 – 11371	12.03.8	Review Adopted by Council
3.0	24/11/2020 - 118347	12.3.3	Review Adopted by Council
3.1	15/11/2023 – CEO043	--	Reference Updates as per POL-1014 Policy Management (previously CP-COM-3580)
<b>Date of Next Review</b>		November 2025	