DYNAMIC EXCHANGE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NAPRANUM COMMUNITY

Society has struggled to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people, as reflected by the current record levels of youth suicides, incarcerations and child removals in Australia. The major approach based around intervention, paternalism and prohibition has not worked; rather, it has further disempowered Indigenous peoples.

Dynamic Exchange was established by Annalise Jennings in 2010 with a mission and a best practice model to empower communities, create economic opportunities, achieve positive social change and spiritual growth.

Rather than try to ‘fix’ an individual, Dynamic Exchange looks at how a whole community can heal and become a safe environment in which people feel empowered and connected. A community where people gain self-belief, self-mastery and self-esteem. Where they can achieve true community ownership, rather than be the subject of institutional control and where they can realise their ambitions and live their dreams.

"Our communities are not problems to be solved. Our communities are full of gifts and assets. Our children are not offenders or ‘youth at risk’. Our children are young entrepreneurs who are just yearning to be discovered. Let’s feed the gifts of community, rather than the deficiencies and needs” – Annalise Jennings

Dynamic Exchange’s specially designed Whole of Community Change program (WOCC) was launched in 2011 as a means for the indigenous community of Napranum to transform itself and transform itself it did!

Napranum is a small community on the Cape York Peninsula in remote Far North Queensland. A short drive from the mining town of Weipa, Napranum was considered to be a poor, disadvantaged town with a population of 860.
Evolving with the community, WOCC identified the vision of the community in collaboration with government and service providers to develop a community owned blueprint and a 10 year visionary plan. Every demographic of the community was engaged, with elders supporting each stage through re-establishing cultural norms and reconnection to land.

The community embraced a ‘Strength based’ methodology which assessed the resources, skills, and potential within the community.

As a result of WOCC and the partnership with Dynamic Exchange, the Napranum community has achieved;

- 40% increase in community owned infrastructure
- 60% increase in employment
- 80% reduction in adult domestic violence
- From 12 victims at any one time to ‘Zero’ children in the Safe House
- Over 90% of goals identified in the 2011 visionary plan implemented within 3 years
- Napranum labelled as the 2nd poorest community in QLD – now seen amongst the most thriving of QLD communities
- Hope has replaced hopelessness, collaboration replaced isolation
- People seeing action and wanting to contribute to the community, including participating in mentoring schemes
- Indigenous leaders, corporate and government coming together to share skills and knowledge to create real change.

“The Whole of Community Change program is the best thing that has ever happened in our community. Annalise Jennings mingled with us. She spoke in our language and with understanding. She listened to us. We trusted her and opened up to her. The energy in the workshops was open, making it possible for us to be clear about our hopes, dreams and future.” – Maryann Coconut, Napranum Thaynakwith Elder

Dynamic Exchange is proud to announce that concepts of community engagement and ownership developed in the WOCC program now underpin the Queensland Government’s Economic Participation Framework and Action Plan, thereby ensuring that government agencies and other external service providers do not commence any undertaking in the community without 100% engagement and ownership with the Council. Infrastructure and services must also align with the community-owned vision and plan, which have been co-created based on core community values.

The future is bright for Napranum with all indicators pointing towards a growing and sustainable community. The 2016 – 2017 community plans include; new Health Clinic, Refurbish PCYC, new Museum, Cultural grounds upgrade, $1.2 mil Boat ramp upgrade and a $4.4 mil upgrade of the waterfront.

In September 2016, NAPRANUM elder of the Thaynakwith Nation, Maryann Coconut, alongside Annalise Jennings graced the international stage to promote the transformational success of Napranum at the CTT International Conference Toronto.

A book titled ‘5 Round tables’ is currently being commissioned. It highlights the success of the Whole of Community Change program and provides guidelines for those wishing to emulate this program in their own community.

In recognition of her community work and dedication, Annalise was recently made an adopted daughter of Napranum Elder Maryann Coconut’s tribal land. Her Aboriginal name Kili is represented by the lorikeet, the messenger between heaven and earth.