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“When people discover what they have, they find power. When people join together in new connections and relationships they build power. When people become more productive together, they exercise their power to address problems and realize dreams...”

Mike Green, ABCD in Action

Asset Based, Community Driven (ABCD) is a powerful approach to community engagement and development that focuses on abilities and potential, rather than problems and deficits, by discovering and mobilising the resources that are already present in a community. Discovering community strengths is a powerful and productive way to address problems and realise collective dreams!

By building relationships and creating the space for opportunities to emerge, community members become powerful and are more in control of their own decision making! The key principles will demonstrate how ABCD ensures an inclusive community process and participants will leave the workshop with practical tools to assist communities to help themselves and others discover and mobilise community strengths!

Increasingly, ABCD has been widely adopted as an effective strategy for helping to create strong and inclusive communities. ABCD is a strengths-based approach to working with communities which emphasises community leadership and helps build relationships.

Drawing on the experience of both the participants and the facilitator, participants will leave these workshop with practical tools, skills and ideas on how to:

- Focus on assets rather than deficiencies
- Identify and mobilise community assets
- Identify natural leaders
- Discover skills of individuals
- Build effective partnerships



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. (Margaret Mead, anthropologist)

Dee Brooks – bio

[Dee Brooks](#) Director of the [Jeder Institute, Pathways to Leadership](#), is a passionate and highly energetic community engagement and development trainer who also provides professional facilitation and keynote addresses for conferences, forums and events.

Based on a decade of grassroots work with the Family Action Centre (FAC) at the University of Newcastle, Dee has trained and presented to thousands of people at hundreds of events and workshops. Dee's background is in youth work, community research and community development and she is a firm believer in the power of tapping into the collective wisdom of a community to strengthen and build on what's already there.

Dee provides Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Art of Hosting & Facilitating Group Processes training for a range of organisations and government departments and assists with community inclusive strategic planning.

Dee is a founding member and Facilitator of the [ABCD Asia Pacific Network](#), an ABCD trainer and consultant, an [Art of Hosting](#) trained facilitator, a founding co-creator of [The Unconference](#), a [Flow Game](#) Host and a [DRUMBEAT](#) Facilitator.

Dee is an International Faculty Member of the [ABCD Institute](#) based at Northwestern University, Chicago, U.S.A. and a Steward of the international [ABCD in Action](#) Network.

Endorsement:

Jody Kretzmann (ABCD Institute):

“Dee Brooks is an energising and welcoming facilitator and an experienced trainer. Her Australian ABCD examples and stories are constructive and her enthusiasm is contagious. Her participatory style assists people in feeling inspired and motivated as she encourages them to discover what is useful and relevant. I would recommend Dee to any community, service, organisation or government department.” Jody Kretzmann, ABCD Institute

Participant quotes:

Participant quote: “I have been in Health for over 20 years and this is by far the best workshop I have ever been to! Dee was excellent – well spoken, very specific & gave us the chance to contribute our personal experience to make it relevant to each individual!”

Participant quote: “I've been around this industry for quite a while – it was really nice to be part of something refreshing and new”

Participant quote: “Fantastic, energised presentation! It was much more than I was expecting and I am looking forward to putting it into practice! Thanks!”

