

# City of Caseys Emergence and Evolution Event Opening Speech



## Emergence and Evolution Conference

### Opening and Welcome

#### Andrea Minca – Community Partnership Coordinator, City of Casey

Hi everyone and welcome, I am the Community Partnership Coordinator at the City of Casey. My role is to work with community services and foster partnerships with council where possible. I want to start by giving you some background about the Network that I have been part of coordinating.

In response to COVID -19 the City of Casey convened the Casey Covid Relief & Recovery network to direct council to support different sectors beyond the Recovery and Relief Management Plan and support the service delivery of Casey's community services during the uncertainty of the Covid landscape.

The network commenced shortly after the first stage 4 lockdown and has never met in person. We met weekly for majority of the first year which eased to bi-monthly and now every three weeks as the frequency of the network has been determined by the Networks needs for Covid orientated support.

The network has grown over the last 20 months from 12 to 35 community services with a mix of frontline staff, CEOs, and senior management.

35 organisations might not sound like a lot for some networks but for Casey the focus has been on the development of close contacts, knowing organisations, their programs and everyone's role that is in the e-room to have a connected and collaborative network.

I am proud to say that majority of the founding Community Service Organisations are consistent members of the network. Members have fed into 3 council strategies, presented at Casey's Community Safety Reference Group, and formed a partnership focused on supporting our Afghan community. These are just a few collaborative pieces that have sprung from the network.

I have continued to call the Network a wraparound network as there are services are from many different sectors including legal, youth, mental health, drug and alcohol, employment, disability, homeless, youth, family, CALD and emergency relief.

The network has been described as "unique", "supportive on a different level" and "like visiting friends" by its community services participants. The services that are part of the network are now some of council closets Community Services contacts.

A participant from the Network told me not that long ago that after one heavy themed meeting they called one of the other participants who was struggling from burnout.

At first, I thought why didn't I think of that then I realised that a small caring community had grown amongst the participants beyond the Network due to working alongside each other during the Covid crisis.

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Through this platform I have been witness to Casey's Community services dynamically adapting to the ever-changing implications of Covid shutdowns and openings on their service delivery, staff and clients.

They like all of us have endured despite the anxiety and stress of the unknown of Covid and continued to show enormous, good will to our community and each other.

I personally want to thank Nick Grant Collins, Hayfa and all the Casey officers that have presented and supported the Covid Relief & Recovery Network.

I especially want to thank my Team leader Rosanne for her shared leadership and constant support of myself and the network.

A special thank you to Glenn our CEO who is in attendance today for setting a collaborative and shared leadership culture at Casey. This encouraging culture is what is needed for this work to flourish under such harsh circumstances.

We as Casey Relief & Recovery network was approached by Kit the CEO of WHISE and our MC today to host the first Emergence and Evolution Conference of hopefully many in Vic.

Kit has mentioned on a few occasions that she approached our network due to the networks "close" knit culture and consistency of attendance.

Therefore, the Emergence and Evolution framework is ideal to capture and express the local learnings and impacts of the pandemic on our social structures and community services workforce within this small but strong network.

This conference is part of the needed recovery work for community services. It will assist in directing the Networks future recovery work with the City of Casey Community services. Above all this is celebration of everyone's work and resilience in this space.

I will now pass you over to Kit the CEO of WHISE who is a founding member of the Relief and Recovery network which would not be the same without her.

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