

OPTIONS WORKSHOPS – OUTCOMES

Key outcomes from the Options Workshops:

- communities are groups with common interests and invoke a sense of belonging
- communities are important to well-being and build social capital
- communities need a place to express community
- local schools are the core of the community, points of interaction and contribute to the development of social networks
- there is a need to establish facilities that help rebuild a sense of community where schools have closed

Expressions of unmet and emerging needs varied between workshops but there was a lot of commonality. Identified needs included:

- multi-purpose community facilities that cater to a wide range of needs and offer different types of spaces
- facilities for older people including aged care accommodation, activities and places to meet and learn
- arts facilities for performing arts, visual arts and workshop spaces
- affordable housing
- indoor and outdoor recreation facilities
- environmental, adult education, schools
- community gardens and mens' sheds

Other themes:

- retain flexibility and plan for the longer term recognising cyclical nature of demographic change
- recognise the needs of local residents most affected by the school closures
- former school sites should facilitate a vibrant, vital and sustaining community
- use some of the funds raised by sale of part/all of site to support the local communities affected by school closes and ensure that local communities benefit
- the application of one option across all sites is not appropriate
- local communities should have an active role in determining new uses for sites

