

'Let's get to it: How to begin the Care journey'

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If you're new to the Care world you might have noticed there can be a lot of jargon, acronyms and 'buzz words' floating around the industry. Certainly as you develop relationships with secular organizations and government you will notice a whole new 'language' you may not be familiar with.

To help you out we have listed some of the most commonly used words in the Care industry to give you a bit of a heads up:

Community development – the activity of working with people from a particular area in order to try and improve their quality of life. Community development seeks to empower individuals and groups of people by providing them with the skills they need to affect change in their own communities.

Community engagement - a planned process with the specific purpose of working with identified groups of people, whether they are connected by geographic location, special interest, or affiliation to address issues affecting their well being.

Stakeholder – a group, organization, individual or system who affects or can be affected by an organization's actions.

Service provision – service provision is a term used to describe a wide range of different activities your church might provide to the community. You become a 'service provider' as soon as you start assisting your community in some way with any kind of activity/help/assistance/goods/program.

Networking – a supportive system of sharing information and services among individuals or groups having a common interest. This can be in the form of organized meetings with people providing the same kind of services as you in your local community or region.

DGR – Deductible Gift Recipient - Only certain organizations are entitled to receive income tax deductible gifts and tax deductible contributions. They are called Deductible Gift Recipients (DGRs). All DGRs have to be endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (unless they are listed by name in the income tax law). If you are wanting to know if your church is eligible for DGR status a good place to start is by asking your church tax agent or finance department.

Gaps – Gaps are often referred to in the Care world. When looking at your community firstly identify the needs that are out there – secondly look and see what other people and organizations are doing to help. List what is needed next to what is being done – the needs that are not being helped are the ‘gaps’ – the needs that are not being met. This can often be a great place for you to start to Care.

Needs Analysis - A process to identify and evaluate what your community is actually requiring. What needs they have, what support they are currently receiving and what the gaps are in current service provision. Simply put: analyzing and identifying the needs of your community.

ACNC – Stands for the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). This is an Australian statutory body and the national regulator of the voluntary sector in Australia including charities and other not for profits. The ACNC registers organizations as charities and helps them understand and meet their obligations through information, guidance, advice and support.

Asset mapping - Community Asset Mapping is a positive approach that instead of focusing on what a community doesn't have – focus's on what a community does have and its strengths. It looks at community resources, individual capacities and abilities, and organizational resources. It starts with what is already present in the community and stresses local determination, investment, creativity, and control.

Risk assessment - A systematic process of evaluating the potential risks that may be involved in an activity or undertaking. A risk assessment is the process of identifying hazards, analyzing or evaluating how likely and severe the risks are associated with that hazard and then determining appropriate ways to prevent, eliminate or control the hazard.