

# Blue Skies



## The Blue Skies Conversation: *Information kit for hosts*

### Enclosed you will find:

- information to host a conversation about making your community more inclusive;
- a form to register your conversation;
- a sample invite letter; and
- information on how to share the outcomes of your conversation with others through the Blue Skies website ([www.blue-skies.info](http://www.blue-skies.info)).



# Information for Conversation Hosts



To engage the community in our vision for a more inclusive community, the Blue Skies Team has invited people to participate in conversations on 3 December 2009, by either:

- participating in a scheduled conversation (please see [www.blue-skies.info](http://www.blue-skies.info) for the conversation schedule); **or**
- by hosting your own conversation.

## Introduction

If the Blue Skies vision inspires you (or even a part of it) and you would like to be part of turning vision into reality, you may like to host your own conversation.

You could invite others who share your passion and are willing to commit to some action locally, to join you.

This pack includes all you need to:

- register your conversation;
- invite people to your conversation; and
- feed back the outcomes of your conversation to be included on the Blue Skies website ([www.blue-skies.info](http://www.blue-skies.info)).



# Information for Conversation Hosts

Conversation hosts may choose to use the three questions offered from the Blue Skies Team:

1. What would it take to create an inclusive community?
2. What are the elements of an inclusive community already happening here?
3. What action am I willing to take to progress the vision?

Alternatively, you may like to develop your own conversation question that if explored, would give a deeper understanding of the issue and open a path for action (please find some examples on page 6).

Either way, please feel free to refer people to the Blue Skies Scenario document and the companion document — the Blue Skies Principles, before you start your conversation.

If you would like some support to host a conversation, please give us a call.







# Information for Conversation Hosts

## Tips for hosting a conversation

Remember; the knowledge and wisdom you need is already in the group.

### Your role is to:

- invite people into the conversation with a question that has meaning for the group;
- make sure that everyone participating in the conversation has seen the Blue Skies Scenario and Principles;
- make sure the environment is comfortable;
- keep attention focused on the question;
- make sure everyone is heard — listened to with respect and curiosity;
- capture the key messages and actions;
- arrange to meet again if the group would like to;
- send feedback from the conversation to Blue Skies; and
- ensure conversation participants know the Blue Skies website address ([www.blue-skies.info](http://www.blue-skies.info)) so they can see the outcomes from around the state and the next steps.





# Information for Conversation Hosts

## Having a powerful question

A good question focuses on what is meaningful for the group; it triggers our curiosity; and invites us to explore further. A good question brings good ideas and possibilities to the surface, but doesn't necessarily solve problems immediately.

Ask "what's possible" not "who is to blame". Keep asking.



## How to capture the key messages

A feedback form has been provided to capture the key messages and send them to the Blue Skies website. However, your group may also like to draw, audiotape, or capture the conversation in some other way as well.

If you are looking for other ideas, please call Valmae Rose on (07) 3357 4188.



# Example conversation questions

How do we create more, disability friendly spaces and places in our local community?

How do we create a welcoming school community?

How do we build support for a National Disability Insurance Scheme?

What would it take to build disability awareness into primary school curriculum?

What would it take to increase job and training opportunities for people with disability in our community?

How can we encourage local business to be more welcoming to people with disability?

How can we encourage partnerships between housing developers, disability services, and people with disability?

What would it take to reduce the number of people with disability in the criminal justice system?

What does it take to keep people safe, without limiting their choices?

How do we support the shift from deficit-based assessment to strength-based assessment of people with disability?

How can we make better use of people's gifts and talents in developing a more inclusive community?

What does local government do now towards building a more inclusive community and what would it take to do more?



# Registration of intent to host a Blue Skies Conversation

Name of host: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Organisation / group / community (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Time and venue for conversation:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Target audience:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Questions to be explored (if you have chosen different questions to those already put forward):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please **email** your registration of intent to:  
**or**

Please **fax** return this form to:

**or**

Please **mail** this form to:

contactblueskies@gmail.com

(07) 3357 4288

Blue Skies  
PO Box 3344  
Newmarket Q 4051



# Conversation Host's Sample invitation letter

[please cut and paste the text of this letter onto your own letterhead]

Dear [name here]

As someone who shares our commitment to an inclusive community, I would like to invite you to be part of an important conversation.

With the launch of the *Blue Skies Scenario: A vision for an inclusive community*, people from all over Queensland have been exploring their own vision for an inclusive community.

On the 3rd of December 2009 (International Day of Person with Disability) at [time and venue here], I will be hosting a conversation around three important questions.

1. What would it take to create an inclusive community?
2. What are the elements of an inclusive community already happening here?
3. What action am I willing to take to progress the vision?

You are welcome to bring a friend and to join us for refreshments afterwards. Please let us know if you need assistance to get here or have any special requirements.

Please give us a call on [your phone number here] to let us know if you're able to make it. We would love to see you.

Kind regards,  
[your name and signature here]





# Conversation Host's Feedback form

Name of host: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation / group (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Venue of the conversation: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of conversation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants: \_\_\_\_\_

What questions did you ask?

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What were the main themes and/or ideas that emerged from your conversation? Add extra pages if you wish.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in doing it again?      Yes      No

Conclusions and recommendations:

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