

# Meeting Summary

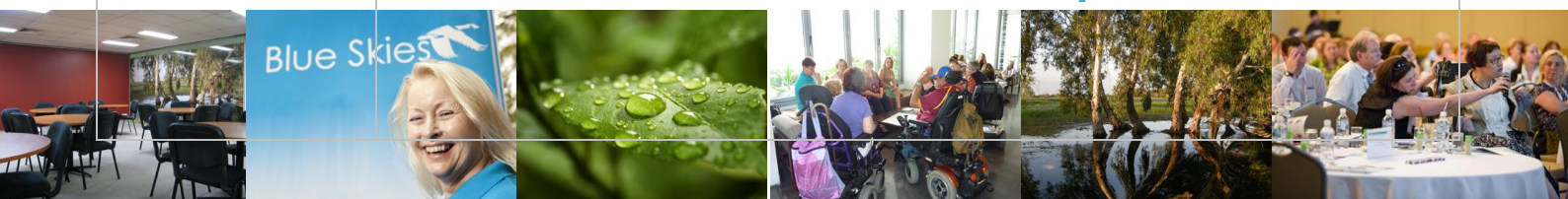
**Meeting date:**

25<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Workshop 3

<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>To progress the Blue Skies' vision for an inclusive community</p>
<p><b>Questions explored</b></p>	<p>What does it take to create a genuinely inclusive community? How do we create and acknowledge inclusive school communities?</p>
<p><b>Summary of discussion</b></p>	<p><b>Conversation host: Jennie Duke, Queensland University of Technology</b></p> <p>A selection of powerful questions were combined with the SOAR process (Strengths; Opportunities; Aspirations and Results) to lead a conversation pursuing the question of how to create and acknowledge inclusive schools as part of the broader agenda of inclusive communities.</p> <p><b>STRENGTHS – What can we build upon?</b></p> <p><b>What are we most proud of? What makes us unique? What can we be best at in our world?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have strong community sense and can build upon this foundation</li> <li>• Proud to acknowledge schools that are inclusive</li> <li>• Advancing inclusion over time</li> <li>• Legislation exists to support inclusion (UNCPRD; UNCROC; Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs: National Disability Strategy; Ten Year Plan)</li> <li>• Great outcomes can occur for all stakeholders and community if inclusive / when inclusive</li> <li>• There are inclusive schools</li> <li>• Resilience in adversity</li> <li>• Optimism can change commitment</li> <li>• Our capacity to be accepting of diversity and difference</li> <li>• Communication and capacity</li> </ul>

## Blue Skies' vision for an inclusive community



- “No Beige” – Teachers to be proactive in responding to diversity
- Teacher preparation for diversity built into education (e.g. QUT Teacher Preparation)
- Partnering with service providers; government; and people with disability

## OPPORTUNITY – How can we respond well?

### What are the top three things we should be focussing on?

- Will
- Paradigm shift to a shared long term vision of inclusion
- Modelling
- Skill building – Teachers education; professional development; leadership
- Investment in strategies
- Related to Global issues
- Schools as community Hubs of working together across government and wider community
- Invest in capacity building strategies to support schools to transform to more inclusive practice
- Coherent, strong teaching program; school

## RESULTS – How do we know we are succeeding?

### What three indicators of success do we use?

- What is inclusion?
- Reduced enrolments in special schools
- Every community has an inclusive school
- When there is no word for inclusion and the language, vocabulary has become irregular
- When different is acknowledged and/or recognised as a resource. ‘Different id good’. Community is enriched.

Due to time limitations the group did not move on to consider the questions pursuing Aspirations including:

**What is our most compelling aspiration?**  
**What actions support our aspirations?**

**Follow up expected**

**Continuing conversations**  
**Invite others who may be interested**

Next conversation will be held on: 27 May 2011

## Blue Skies’ vision for an inclusive community

