

Meeting Summary

Meeting date:

25th February 2011

Workshop 1

Purpose

To progress the Blue Skies vision

Questions explored

How do we rebuild Queensland better?
How do we ensure social as well as physical infrastructure is rebuilt?
We share common ground, so where are the opportunities for making connections?

Summary of discussion

Blue Skies introduction by Valmae Rose and Margaret Ward

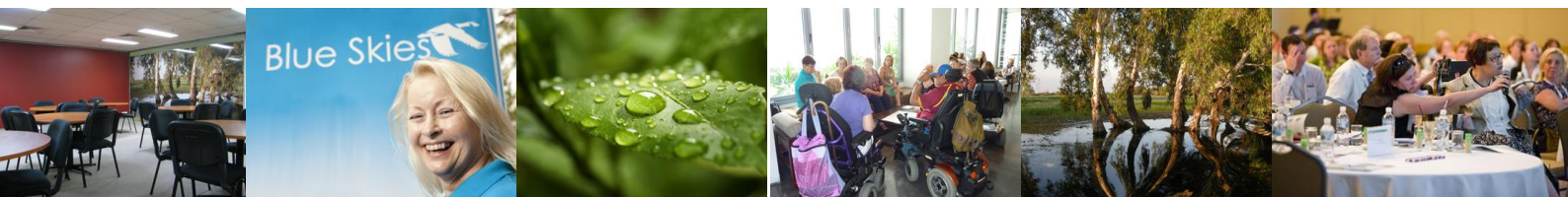
- Neat answers are unlikely.
- Can note with humility and honesty what groups say – this will influence what Blue Skies says to the Qld Reconstruction Authority
- This is an opportunity to rebuild and TRANSFORM
- Vulnerable people are not high on the list of people being consulted in reconstruction.
- We have a responsibility to vulnerable people to keep them in focus and rebuild Qld with strategies to enhance the inclusion of vulnerable people

[Article provided](#)

Ideas and thoughts from the reading and group discussion

- In building private dwellings, people don't think about accessibility
- Should be accessibility and visitability – encompasses the broader notion of welcoming people in to your home – true community inclusion
- Why is there no mandatory accessibility code? Working towards that with a volunteer code and a taskforce is monitoring uptake. Process is as important as outcome – without the process and preparation, industry responds badly. Unprecedented - [the Liveable Design guidelines](#) - a group including housing, construction, and real estate companies etc. agreed to work towards all housing built being silver level by 2020?

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- Not a technical question, but a question of human rights
- Why not make the cost of accessibility part of the first home buyers grant?
- Why not encourage financial incentives for uptake of voluntary code?
- First home buyers grant flawed – leads to increased prices and decreased home ownership – if you are going to hand out incentives, tie them to a social outcome e.g. additional money from state to build regionally

How can we contribute to monitor the progress of the voluntary guidelines?

What is already being done?

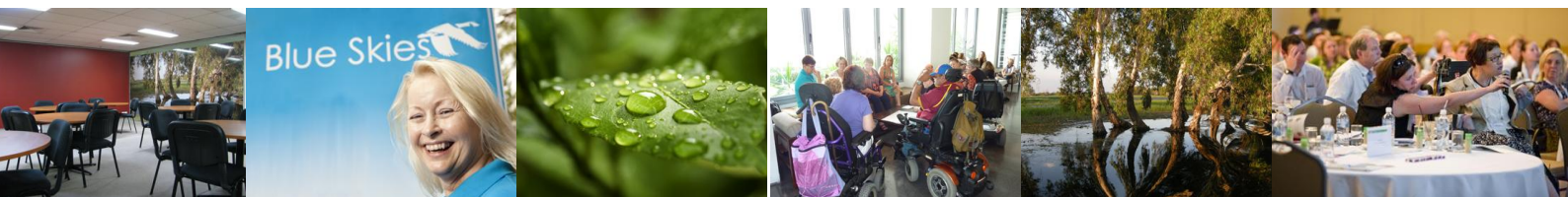
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Ideas and thoughts from table discussions:

Examples and Opportunities:

- Research project around sensory processing - what does good design for people with sensory processing differences look like?
- [Kyabra LivingIn independent living project](#)
- [Productivity Commission report into Caring for Older Australians](#) – chapter on housing:
- Potential for linking/info sharing on [Blue Skies website](#). Submit your ideas
- Flood inquiry – submissions due 4/4/11
- Getting involved in existing projects – getting design students involved
- Make direct submissions to Reconstruction Authority
- Put disability on the agenda across all jurisdictions, during the flood and cyclone post-mortems and through Volunteering Queensland activities
- Ensure formal relationships between agencies that can support each other. Develop ecosystem that recognises complexity and connects – no one dimensional activities
- A good financial incentive for builders may be to decrease application fees
- Extend focus beyond physical disability
- [ULDA](#) – has community development team, good examples of consultation, 10% accessible housing, streamlines processes – some evidence that conflicting goals has reduced community development focus
- We need access to good quality consultation. We can inform this with existing developed engagement guidelines –some examples:
[HCQ consumer engagement guidelines](#)
[QDN engagement guidelines](#)
[Government guidelines](#)

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- Brisbane City Council Access and Inclusion Plan – consultations going on
- Accessibility not ‘sexy’ - we need taste and style to appeal to all – we need to talk to designers
- Make Universal design a selling point – desirable – make it a dwelling people WANT to live in
- Tax incentives for manufacturers to make accessible features, fittings
- Educate community and builders – Building code needs change to allow for change of habits in builders e.g. height of light switches etc.
- Need flexible framework that accommodates other needs e.g. cultural needs
- Message that building an accessible home affects future families
- Accessible display homes?
- Include IT connectivity to reduce social isolation and increase liveability
- Awards for building/design industries
- Encourage support of NDIS – there will be money in this for the construction industry in retrofitting and building.

**Follow up
expected**

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

Next conversation will be held on 27 May 2011

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