

Our Place is a whole of community, place-based project working with communities living in social housing estates in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

By using a community development approach we aim to support happier, healthier and more sustainable communities for people living within social housing estates with increased community pride, mental and physical wellbeing and individual empowerment.

We are working with four communities - Bellambi since late 2014 and East Nowra, Bundaleer and Warrawong since July 2017.

Our Place is coordinated by Illawarra Shoalhaven Social Investments (ISSIT). ISSIT is a collaboration of a number of NSW Government agencies, non government organisations and local councils in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven who have agreed to work together and share their resources.

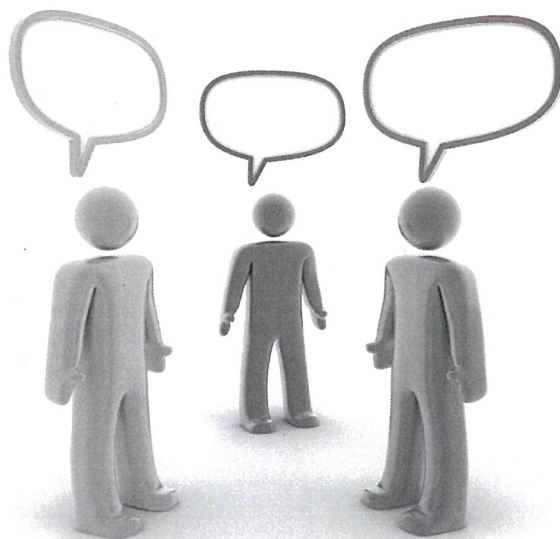
The *Our Place* Community Action Plans guide the work of ISSIT in each community during 2018, keeping ISSIT accountable to local communities and our partner organisations. As the actions in the Plans are implemented, ISSIT will continue to seek to better understand the communities we are working with and develop further actions with communities.

The Plans have been developed in consultation with community members, local community organisations and groups and ISSIT members as follows:

August – October 2017

Community Conversations

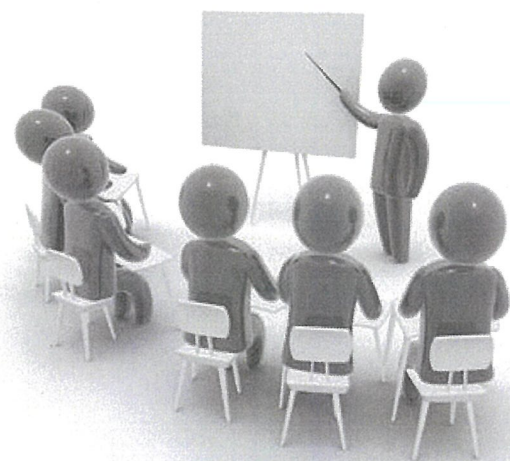
ISSIT team worked with local community organisations and groups to hold approx. 450 conversations with community members about their aspirations, ideas and concerns for their communities



October 2017

Community workshops

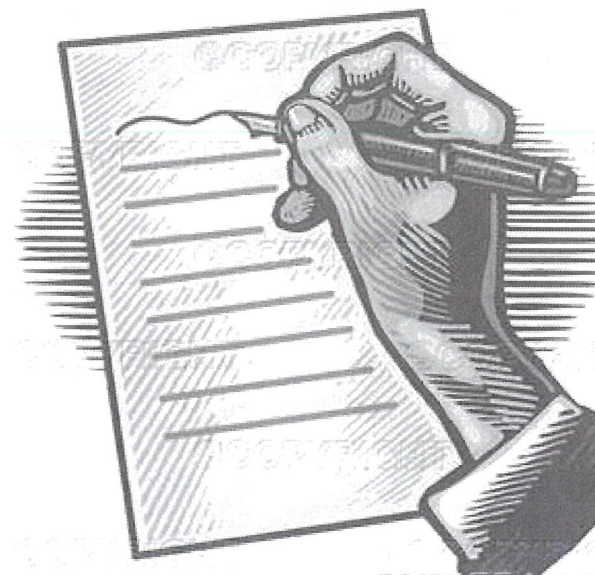
At community workshops community members, community organisations, local government, schools and government agencies worked together to identify actions for each community



November – December 2017

Draft Community Action Plans

Community Action Plans were drafted in consultation with ISSIT members and partner organisations based on community conversations and workshops



January – December 2018

Implementation and Check-in

Community Action Plans implemented in partnership with community members, ISSIT members and partner organisations.
Ongoing consultation to measure success and develop 2019 Action Plans



| Themes | Actions | | | | | Outcomes |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Safety | Improve communications and relationships between community members and Police through engagement events and proactive door knocks. | Hold safety audits with community members and implement follow up actions. | | | | Community members living in East Nowra are safer, children play safely and crime is reported. |
| Physical Environment | Develop strategies to improve rubbish removal in estates. | Improve facilities for families at Jaycees (Parramatta) Park. | | | | Jaycees (Parramatta) Park utilised more by children and rubbish dumping reduced. |
| Education and Skills | Scope and develop increased employment pathways for social housing tenants, including with social housing maintenance providers. | Explore development of early childhood transitions programs and programs to improve parental engagement in education, with a focus on Aboriginal families. | Increase parental involvement in local schools, in particular at Nowra East Public School Permaculture Garden. | | | Community members develop skills for work opportunities and children are ready for school. |
| Community Supports and Services | Support implementation of FACS Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Reform service changes for 0-3 yrs, young people, Aboriginal children, young people and families. | Programs and activities that utilise Jaycees (Parramatta) Park, prioritising children, young people and families and working with Aboriginal community members. | Key community members and support organisations to undertake Questions, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training. | Support Nowra East Public School Wellbeing Hub to align with whole of community initiatives. | Provide low cost dental services to social housing community members. | Community members feel/are supported by others & participate in activities and programs. |
| Community Pride, Participation and Connections | Hold legal workshops to assist tenants understand social housing process for repairs and maintenance. | Promote participation with NSW Health to actively engage in events. | Involve community members in the development of Action Plans. | Hold quarterly community events. | Promote student art in public places. | Increased numbers of social housing community members are participating in activities and events. |