

Rethinking the Parameters of Community: Establishing Therapeutic Communities in Greenfields Locations

Australian Therapeutic Communities Association
Conference
Debra Zanella
Hope Community Services

Addressing the need for innovative service delivery in regional Western Australia.



Embracing the TC Model



Lessons from Chapman Valley (2013)

- Local politics are problematic but ultimately unavoidable.
- Reactive communications sell newspapers and line the pockets of media moguls.
- Involve the community

Lessons from Chapman Valley (2013)



Applying the lessons to the Mount Hill Community Farm (2014)

- Plan your strategy, allow for iteration.
- Engage early and proactively. Be open to change & have broad shoulders.
- Involve the community & make commitments.
- Publically acknowledge misconceptions, don't debate them.
- Actively manage the media.

Applying the lessons to the Mount Hill Community Farm (2014)



Redefining “C” in Therapeutic Communities

- Shared membership & purpose – moving beyond acceptance to active participation.
- Partnerships with the local community based on commitments.
- Sustainable social enterprise model that adds value to the local community.
- Community interaction that breaks down misconceptions and stigma.



Stakeholder Engagement Framework

April 2014

Mount Hill Community Farm

Report of the Community Workshop
on the 16 April 2014

May 2014



Mount Hill Community Farm Information Sheet



Hope Community Services is pleased to advise that it has selected Mount Hill as the location to invest \$2 million to establish a community farm that will service the Mid West region.

Hope Community Services is a long term provider of community services in the Mid West region and draws on 100 years of active service in the Western Australian community.

The Mount Hill Community Farm is a sustainable social enterprise with community and residential members. Using permaculture principles, the farm will grow quality produce that sustains its residents and community members. Surplus produce will be sold to the local community.

A significant difference from the traditional farm is that the Mount Hill Community Farm will not be dependent on income from food production. Hope Community Services has several secure revenue sources that will fund its ongoing operations. This funding will generate new local employment opportunities and guarantee the farm's long term sustainability.

The community farm will be home to resident members who volunteer to live and contribute to the community. Before entering the community, these individuals will pass a rigorous assessment process to determine their suitability. In return for residing at the community farm, residents will maintain the farm and undertake a program that will assist with their return to their families, productive employment and community life.

The residential program delivered at the community will be an extension of the drug and alcohol rehabilitation program Hope Community Services currently offers at Rosella House in Geraldton.



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Join us for a conversation about the Mount Hill Community Farm

Hope Community Services will have a stall at the Walkaway Markets on Sunday 6 April and will be available for a chat and to answer your questions. We are also hosting a local community workshop to discuss the concept and explore opportunities with the Walkaway community.

6.30 – 9.00pm, Wednesday 16 April
Walkaway Recreation Centre

Please RSVP for the workshop to Monica at:
mounthill@hopecs.org.au or call / SMS 0402 921 112.

You can also contact Monica if you have questions before the market and the workshop.

We are always happy to talk with local community members.



Nurturing Hope & Opportunity

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