

Fab Feathy: next steps and the nature of the support available via the Community-Led Development Programme partnership with DIA?

The CLD Programme is about communities working together towards shared aspirations

Fab Feathy is currently working to draft a five-year partnership agreement with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and getting ourselves set up to facilitate and support the community (and stakeholders) to work together toward achieving our shared community aspirations.

The focus of the CLD Programme Partnership is "Communities Working Together", following [the principles of community-led development](#), to achieve shared visions and goals.

The CLD Programme is a new way of working for DIA, in that, the programme settings are flexible to enable communities to lead and drive the development they want, in ways and at a pace that works for the community.

The communities that have been selected for partnership with DIA have access to dedicated expertise and meaningful commitment from DIA to support them to achieve their aspirations.

Moving into this next phase to establish the partnership over the next 12 months, Fab Feathy will remain as the steering/governance group and will co-opt new members as needed/appropriate. We also intend to set up a stakeholder group for those who are also involved the community space in Featherston.

Our aim is to be as transparent and inclusive as we possibly can, within the resources we have. Our approach has been to invite people to participate by "opting-in" and we've been absolutely stoked with how many of the community have taken us up on that.

Right now Fab Feathy are still doing this by voluntary effort – please be patient with us while we juggle Fab Feathy with other commitments. We hope to have a paid resource early in 2018. Having a paid resource will help with the momentum and regular communications about what's happening, how to get involved and how to support the change you want to happen in town.

We hope to pick up the pace and be supporting the community to get some projects off the ground early- to mid-2018.

Fab Feathy's role is to facilitate and support collaboration on activities toward shared aspirations – initial decisions will be guided by the 'Our Future Featherston' community plan

Over the past year Fab Feathy facilitated a process, on behalf of the community, to identify shared community aspirations and discuss how the community might approach working together to achieve those aspirations.

The *Our Future Featherston* community plan, drafted from community input, provides a framework to guide initial decisions on next step actions. The level of community participation in Fab Feathy's

activities give us confidence that the plan, broadly, represents the views and has the mandate of the Featherston community.

The focus for Fab Feathy over the next few months will be to begin to put in place processes and structures that are transparent, inclusive, enabling, empowering to facilitate the community and stakeholders to work together over the next five years and beyond.

We will look to implement processes that are consistent with those discussed at community workshops held earlier in the year, as outlined in the *Our Future Featherston* plan. We will refine and adapt processes as we go to suit what works best in Featherston.

Resourcing for coordination and facilitation of activities under the aegis of the CLD partnership

Community conversations identified a desire for dedicated coordination resourcing to support: multiple activities happening simultaneously; community collaboration; and the efficient flow of information - among other things.

One of the next steps for Fab Feathy will be to put in a project proposal to the CLD Crown Panel for 40 hours per week of coordination resource. We will be looking for either one full-time person or a couple of part-time people to share the 40 hours (we don't have a preference).

When we are in a position to employ we will advertise within the community for the skills that we are looking for, and at that time we can answer any specific questions about the role/s.

Actions groups and funding for projects

Achieving shared community aspirations will need many people, groups and stakeholders working together. Fab Feathy's and DIA's role will be to facilitate, enable and support collaboration.

As outlined in the *Our Future Featherston* plan, the coordinator/s will support 'action groups' with planning and resourcing projects. The intention is for actions groups to form around specific projects or focus areas.

'Action groups' will likely take the lead on coordinating effort, resources and people towards achieving specific projects (and then dissolve when the "action" is completed). The specific nature of the support from the coordinator/s will be discussed and agreed at the outset of a group forming and will depend on what wanted/needed. The support could include, for example, help to: write a proposal for the project funding; broker connections with stakeholders; facilitate a community meeting; develop a plan to collect baseline information to understand how successful or otherwise the project was at achieving its objectives. The objective will also be to "up-skill" and build capability in the community over time.

There will be opportunity for the wider community to input into decisions about which specific "actions" should be undertaken first at the planned quarterly community meetings. We will aim to

have the first of these meetings by the end of March 2018. Discussion at the community meetings will be facilitated by the coordinator/s and Fab Feathy.

A key factor in what actions/projects get supported will be whether there are people/groups that are willing and available to contribute to make things happen. The idea is the community works together to achieve our aspirations. The coordinator/s will be expected to support and facilitate, not to do it all on behalf of the community.

Is there any funding?

There is some funding available – funding that is only available to selected communities. There is no set dollar value that comes with being selected.

We will need to apply to the CLD Programme Crown Panel for project funding and each proposal will be considered on its merits. The Panel meets once per month. We need to keep in mind that being a selected community offers no guarantees that our proposals will be granted funding. It will be the role of the coordinator/s to manage the submission process.

DIA will work with the coordinator/s, Fab Feathy and the community to support us to prepare each proposal. Key factors we will need to cover off for any proposal are: what outcomes we are wanting; evidence of community mandate for the proposal; what resources the community (and stakeholders) are contributing to the project; the plan for future sustainability; whether there are other, more appropriate, source of funding (e.g. Lotteries Community Facilities).