

SOCIAL CAPITAL + SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ACTION: HOW LIBRARIES AND PUBS CAN SAVE THE DAY...

Introduction

Social capital and social infrastructure measurement and investment is the “missing piece” in building a resilient South Australia.

Led by Resilient Ready CEO Renae Hanvin and global resilience expert Professor Daniel Aldrich, this project included desktop research, interviews with 20+ stakeholders, an online and in-person Forum attracting over 70 government and non-government contributors.

FINDINGS REPORT - JULY 2024 | RESILIENTREADY.ORG

Stronger Communities, Brighter Futures

A snapshot of Social Capital + Social
Infrastructure across South Australia



Social Capital - findings

There is no formal data measurement of social capital in South Australia.

Social capital refers to social ties led by trust, norms and networks:

- BONDING ties with people like us
- BRIDGING ties with people not like us
- LINKING ties with people in power



Renae Hanvin
Professor Daniel P. Aldrich

Social Infrastructure - findings

There is no formal data measurement of social infrastructure in the form of its value to social ties.

Social infrastructure refers to the physical or online places and spaces that foster people connections categorised by community organisations, parks, social businesses and places of worship.



Benefits of Social Capital and Social Infrastructure Measurement

Multiple benefits were identified by project participants, including:

- Globally recognised evidence to support funding submissions, resource allocations and investment reviews, and advocacy for future change
- Opportunity to set benchmarks and measure impact over the long-term
- Overlaying social capital heatmapping and social infrastructure measurements with risk assessments and vulnerability data
- Transferrable data across many areas such as education, health and social services, and climate adaptation
- Connecting people data with grey infrastructure and other capital measures.



Libraries are Essential

Libraries offer everyone a trusted place to go to strengthen bonding, bridging and linking social ties.

The library connects all kinds of people by offering online access to connect those digitally disadvantaged, by running bushfire safety information sessions and as a place to go during events such as heatwaves.

Pubs foster Connections

The local pub does much more than serve alcohol, being an important social business within a community.

Pubs employ local people, provide a space to connect for food, sport or fun and are often the first to open their doors to the community, government or emergency services in times of disaster.



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