

EG 2020

A plan for change
in Ellen Grove





In 5 years Ellen Grove has become

- a healthier, more connected community
- a place where people want to live
- an inclusive and supportive environment

In 5 years Ellen Grove has gained

- a clear identity
- more residents engaged in community life
- supportiveness, connectedness and 'neighbourhoodliness'
- better, more integrated support services
- an increase in prosperity, higher employment rates and more home ownership
- an outcome of all children engaged in early learning for a better future
- better infrastructure, creating safer places to gather



Introduction

The community of Ellen Grove in Brisbane's South West is on the cusp of change. In 2015, Wesley Mission Queensland commissioned a report titled 'The Ellen Grove Community Mapping and Strategic Directions Report' to understand the status of a number of key social issues that impact on a person's ability to be a contributing citizen, and a recognised part of Queensland's present and future.

Just over half of the respondents in the report (57%) indicated that they had concerns about the area and when asked what they were, they focussed on:

- a sense of being the 'forgotten suburb' for funding, services, public transport, and maintenance
- considerable concerns about maintenance of the community by council,
- concerns about key community safety issues of substance abuse and excess noise from hooning, and
- a lack of employment opportunities.

Community organisations who, by and large, provide outreach service to the community of Ellen Grove agreed that their experience of the area echoed the challenges experienced by residents. Specific issues that were noted by service providers included:

- persistent social issues of domestic and drug related violence
- the stigma attached to the name and the area
- the transient nature of part of the community
- a lack of positive interactions between community and police
- a lack of infrastructure, and
- low levels of engagement in education and learning.

What is most concerning is that these issues have persisted for decades, providing the basis for why residents feel that Ellen Grove is a 'forgotten suburb'.

But change is afoot.

Community service organisations, State Government departments, Brisbane City Council staff, universities, residents of better resourced, neighbouring communities and various Brisbane businesses are working with Ellen Grove residents to bring about whole-of-community change. This will take time and a sustained commitment in service delivery, resource injection and infrastructure development. However this is crucial if we are to ask the people of Ellen Grove to also support change. A community cannot reach its full potential when there are so few safe public spaces, community resources or other amenities to promote and support social inclusion, citizenship and 'neighbourhoodliness' – a term coined during the consultation of the research report that perfectly encapsulates the feeling and the goal of the EG 2020 action plan.

Elorac Place, an old-style community centre, and the local Carole Park Primary School represent the two main facilities for community gatherings and connection. How can we better use these resources to achieve the identified aims for change?

Wesley Mission Queensland has become the responsible entity for the work at Elorac Place and has employed a community development worker to implement this action plan with the residents of Ellen Grove.

We are excited about this collaboration to bring the aims of EG 2020 to life and we invite you to be part of this historic change.



What is happening now in Ellen Grove?

Ellen Grove is a young suburb with:

44.5%

of its residents under the age of 25 years.

Ellen Grove has significant cultural diversity in its population with:

44.1%

of residents being born overseas.

The percentage of single parent families:

32.7%

Ellen Grove

14.6%

Brisbane

16.1%

Queensland

Ellen Grove has double the percentage of Brisbane or Queensland.

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) results indicate that:

51%

of children in Ellen Grove are developmentally vulnerable in at least one of the five domains.

28%

of children are developmentally vulnerable in at least two of the five domains. This represents one of the highest vulnerability percentages in Australia.

20.3%

of the Ellen Grove community is unemployed. Multiple barriers to employment have persisted.

5.3%

Brisbane

44%

of Ellen Grove dwellings are public housing.



What is in place to support change?

1. Strategic Reference Group

This collaborative group includes members from not for profit organisations, State Government departments, local council, universities, and the community who have an interest in the positive development of Ellen Grove.

2. EG 2020 Action Groups

The Strategic Reference Group members will lead small action groups, made up of organisational and community representatives, to advance the objectives of the EG 2020 action plan. The action groups include:

- i. Children 0-12 Years
- ii. Young People 12-25 Years
- iii. Employment and Training
- iv. Community Connections – connecting people in healthy relationships
- v. Community Safety

What does success look like? By June 2017

The Employment and Training Action Group will deliver the following outcomes:

- 10 additional jobs for people in Ellen Grove
- 15 more connections with local employers and businesses
- 25 more young people engaged in training or education programs

The Children 0–12 Years Action Group will:

Deliver a Prep Market Day and pre prep transition program at Carole Park Primary School in order to:

- Increase prep enrolments by 20 students for 2017 and exceed 2015/16 enrolment numbers
- Maintain the attendance of an additional 20 enrolled children beyond day eight

Deliver a Leadership Program and Leadership Day in order to:

- Reduce the number of suspensions recorded for 2017 as compared with 2015/2016
- Demonstrate improvements in children's behaviour through the Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL) program
- Create and nurture a culture of leadership within the school across all students
- Provide opportunities for mentorship and role modelling from senior students to younger students
- Reinforce the school motto of 'Safe Respectful Learners'
- Increase participation of students, and community and other services in the leadership program

The Young People 12–25 Years Action Group will:

- Link in with the existing Headspace youth reference group to advise and guide its actions, including:
 - o Have two Headspace representatives connected and participating with EG 2020
- Create a closed facebook page for young people in Ellen Grove
- Provide six holiday events between September 2016 and June 2017

The Community Connections Action Group will:

- Conduct a transport audit and consult Ellen Grove public transport users to recommend a revised network plan to Translink
- Form the Ellen Grove Local Advocates Group to build connections, relationships and leadership in the community alongside the Community Connections Action Group



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EG 2020 Action Plan

Compiled and edited by the Strategic Reference Group



University of Qld

DCCSDS – Forest Lake Child Safety Service Centre

Qld Department of Housing & Public Works
 Inala Housing Service Centre

Qld Department of Health
 Inala Child Health & Inala Alcohol & Drug Service