

# Getting It Right: Engaging Communities

**In a culturally diverse society...**



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Local Area Multicultural Partnership ( LAMP)  
program**

# Getting it right ...

Is about understanding that cultural diversity is more than just about culture. It's about people with their own unique ...

- \* ideas
- \* knowledge and wisdom
- \* skills
- \* histories
- \* experiences
- \* ways of doing things
- \* ways of understanding
- \* ways of expressing

That may be different than yours.....



**But there are also many things  
that are the same as those in  
your own community....**

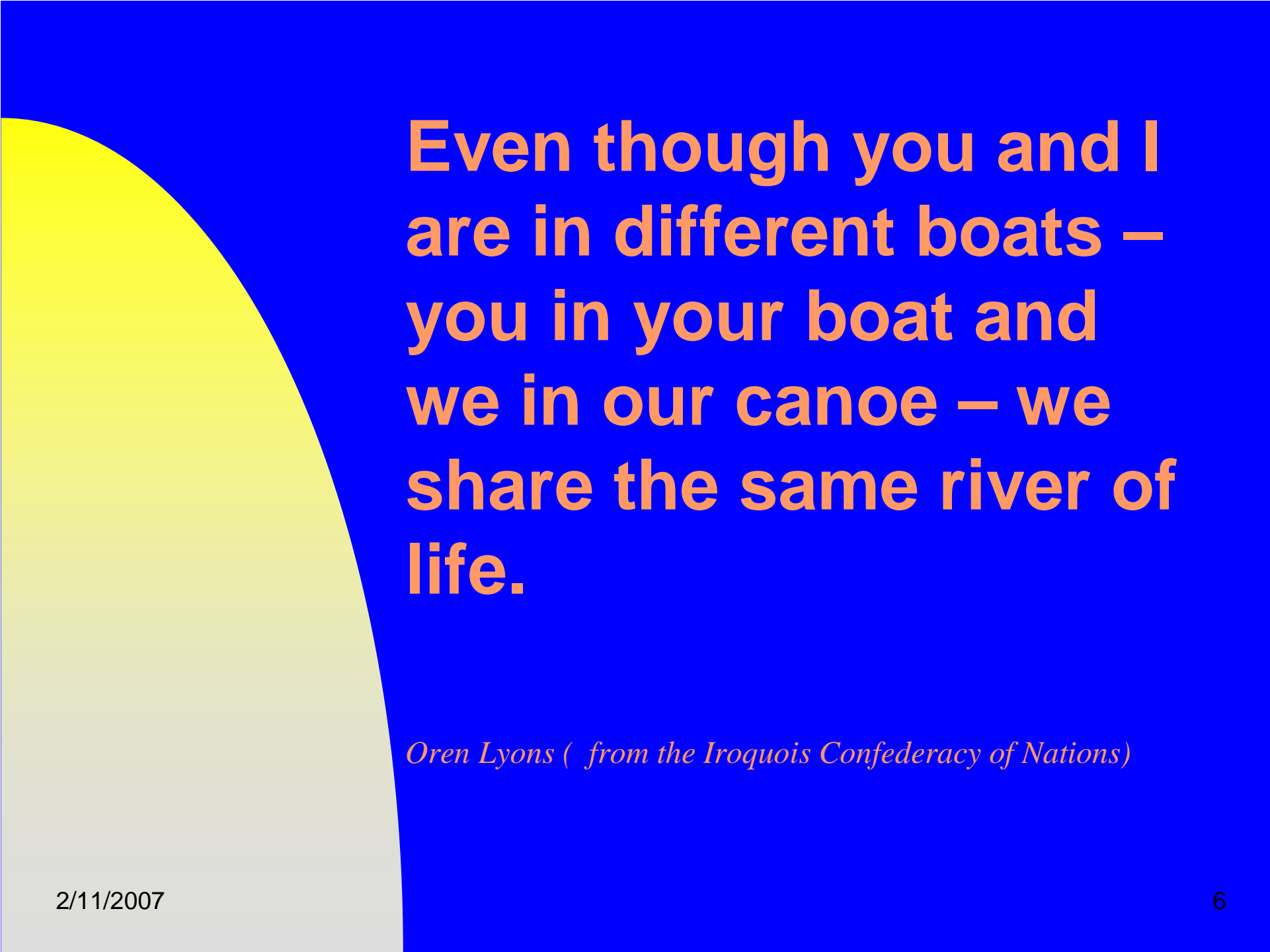
- \* Concern for young people**
- \* Concern about community well being**
- \* Strong family values**
- \* Hope for a positive future**
- \* Desire to participate**
- \* Desire to be productive**
- \*Desire to Build Active Communities\***

## Getting It Right is about engaging communities by...

- \* **Establishing good Community Relations.**
- \* **Respecting and understanding the dynamics of the community you work with.**
- \* **Developing trust.**
- \* **Developing and maintaining relationships.**
- \* **Going to communities instead of expecting them to come to you., all the time.**
- \* **SEEING for yourself what and how they do things.**

# Building Active Communities is about ...

- \* **Flexibility** - equity issues
- \* **Patience** - different ways of organising
- \* **Recognising potential** - capacity building
- \* **Recognising limitations** - access issues
- \* **Developing programs that fit the community**
  - \*Appropriate consultation
- \* **Enabling:**
  - \*Offering and providing appropriate assistance
  - \*Offering and providing appropriate support.



**Even though you and I  
are in different boats –  
you in your boat and  
we in our canoe – we  
share the same river of  
life.**

*Oren Lyons ( from the Iroquois Confederacy of Nations)*

# Sport & Recreation In MultiCultural Cairns A SnapShot Today...

## \* Papua New Guinean Community

\* Touch Football \* Cricket \* Net-Ball \* Soccer

## \* Samoan Community

\* Community Volleyball – every Saturday since 1991

\* Competitive Volleyball

\* Rugby - Every –Monday – Wed -Fri

\* Samoan Cricket – all ages, special holidays

## \* Cook Island Community

\* Volleyball – nearly every night – Monday through Saturday at Moorool Community Centre court.

\* Touch Rugby

# MultiCultural Cairns A SnapShot Today...

- \* **Hmong & Thai community**  
Takau, Soccer – Every Saturday  
International competitions in Malaysia and Thailand every year
- \* **East Timorese Community**  
Soccer – International Sporting Event – Timor Cup
- \* **Cairns General Community**  
Sunday Soccer on the Esplanade
- \* **Rugby for Mooroolooloolo – Why it didn't work.**  
A brief case study

# Getting it right: Creating a level playing field: Access

- \* **Keep things simple** – language and processes
- \* **Work with community leaders and representatives** –Follow cultural protocols. Invite them to participate in committees, respect their knowledge on local issues and apply it appropriately .
- \* **Promote Opportunities**– Not everyone reads the paper. Word of mouth is still the most effective way of getting news out. **Work with community networks.**
- \* **Target funding** – but don't make it difficult – offer assistance.
- \* **Bureaucracies** - Explain how it works when relevant. Don't make assumptions that everyone

# Equity

- \* **Be Inclusive** – Go outside the square.
- \* **Share resources**- Lack of facilities is an issue in Cairns for small groups who don't belong to clubs.
- \* **Costs** – keep costs to a minimum. For large families, costs are an issue and will restrict participation. Not everyone knows how to apply for funding.
- \* **Role Models** – Identify young role models, and offer them opportunities to develop skills that will lead to employment. In doing what they love.
- \* **Transportation** – Not everyone has access to transport. Provide incentives, and assistance.

# Tips on Getting it Right..

- \* **Ask & listen** – Try to use the information communities give you. Let them know when you have.
- \* **Acknowledgment is important.**
- \* **Allow Time** - Enough for information to verbally get to communities, for responses and to organise themselves. **Every community has their own rhythm.**
- \* **Focus on community strengths**
- \* **Careful how you introduce new ideas into a community. Follow protocols. Ask first.**



**Enlarge the  
opportunity  
and the person will  
expand to fill it.**

*Eli Ginzberg (b. 1991)*