



Sydney ALLIANCE



Building a strong civil society

What is the Sydney Alliance?

The Sydney Alliance brings together diverse community organisations, unions and religious organisations to advance the common good and achieve a fair, just and sustainable city.

We do this by building trust across diversity, based on strong relationships between and within organisations. This creates an opportunity for listening to the diversity of Sydney, providing opportunities for people to have a say in decisions that affect them, their families and all who work and live in Sydney.

The Sydney Alliance is a non-party political organisation. We build grassroots power that respects the contribution and dignity of all people.

The civil society organisations currently participating in the Sydney Alliance are:

United Services Union
NSW Nurses Association
Arab Council Australia
Uniting Church NSW Synod
Unions NSW
Immigrant Women's Speak Out
Rail Tram and Bus Union
Hindu Council of Australia
Council of Christians and Jews
UnitingCare NSW ACT

NSW Teachers Federation
Asian Women at Work
Parramatta Diocese of the Catholic Church
Jewish Board of Deputies
United Muslim Women's Association
Wesley Mission
Public Service Association
Metro Migrant Resource Council
Cancer Council of NSW
Youth Action and Policy Australia

Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union
Cyprus Community NSW
Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union
Sydney Archdiocese of the Catholic Church
Western Sydney Community Forum
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia
National Union of Workers
Climate Action Network Australia
Inner-West Community Development Organisation
Federation of African Communities' Council

Where did the Sydney Alliance come from?

The Sydney Alliance is founded in the traditions of community organising that have their origins in the United States in the 1930s, and have recently come to prominence thanks to Barack Obama. The Industrial Areas Foundation which grew out of Chicago now has over 60 partner organisations in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany. The Sydney Alliance is the first example of this kind of organising in Australia.

The Sydney Alliance is now in its **organising stage**, which runs from 2009 to the Alliance's Founding Assembly in September 2011. Currently we are running an intensive **listening campaign** throughout all of our organisations, where the grassroots members of Sydney's civil society organisations will develop the multi-issue agenda for the initial work of the



Alliance. During this period the Alliance is continuing to grow the network of organisations involved to ensure that it is geographically, ethnically, religiously and socially representative of Sydney.

How does the Sydney Alliance do its work?

The Sydney Alliance aims to create a space where organisations can come together to respond to problems collectively. This involves three main activities:

Relationship building: the work of the Sydney Alliance begins with one-to-one relational meetings. Thousands of these have already been held across Sydney. The aim is to intentionally work on building understanding, respect and sense of reciprocity between our organisations and our active participants. Too often in the busy work of organisational life we lose our sense of vision, mission and purpose. A goal of the Alliance is to rekindle these values as a foundation for joint action.

Leadership development: the Sydney Alliance provides several opportunities for participation and training

- *The Two Day Alliance Action Leadership Institute* - an induction to the processes and community organising techniques used by the Sydney Alliance. It canvases the 'why' and 'how' of the Sydney Alliance by bringing together approximately 40 people from different member organisations and new organisations interested in finding out more about the Alliance.
- *The Six Day Leadership Advanced Training* - a program for people committed to understanding the craft of community organising who want to play a key role in leading the activities of the Alliance within and beyond their organisation.

Action and Reflection: the Sydney Alliance consolidates relationships between organisations and individuals by asking them to take action. Action may involve coming to coalition meetings, running listening campaigns or helping to strategise and implement an agenda for the common good in Sydney. The Alliance has many action teams made up of members from participating organisations. We reflect on every action to learn, develop and improve.

How do I get involved? The long term goal of the Sydney Alliance is to strengthen the civil society organisations – religious, unions and community organisations - across Sydney. So the best way to get involved is to get more involved in your civil society organisation – and encourage them to get involved in the Sydney Alliance. You can learn more by meeting an Alliance organiser, attending an event – such as a District event or a 2 day Introductory Training. Visit our website for information and readings www.sydneyalliance.org.au.

For more information contact:

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Ron – rburgess@sydneyalliance.org.au (West or SouthWest Sydney District).