



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

Economic Development Australia's (EDA) purpose is to promote sustainable economic development across Australia. Its membership exceeds 400 with State Practitioner Networks established in each State. EDA is committed to supporting economic development practitioners to increase the social, economic and environmental prosperity of Australian communities.

Regional and Remote Area Economic Development Training Program (RRATP)

The Regional and Remote Area Economic Development Training Program (RRATP) is developed and delivered pro-bono by EDA members. The program provides a series of case studies, a local community economic development workshop and also includes an economic development toolbox outlining the role that Economic Development Practitioners undertake.

Background

The EDA RRATP is based on the recognition that regional and remote areas of Australia, including remote indigenous communities, are currently missing some of the expertise available and needed in the area of economic development. EDA acknowledges that this expertise is often hard and/or expensive to source. It is the intention of this program to provide insights into tackling common economic development challenges faced by regional and remote areas by making available EDA practitioners with a variety of diverse backgrounds and experiences. The RRATP aims to deliver a positive impact for regional and remote motivated communities.

Concept

A group of three EDA members donates 2-3 days of their time to travel to remote and small regional communities and undertake economic development workshops. These workshops are designed in consultation with the local Regional Development Australia and/or Regional or Local Government Associations. They allow for a tailored program over 2-3 days and can include one on one sessions with local community members who are interested in economic development.



Providing a positive impact for remote and regional communities of Australia





Target

Local Government elected members and staff, State and Commonwealth Regional Economic Development officers, Regional Development Australia staff and committee members, and industry /business and community development organisations.

Funding

EDA practitioners that deliver the RRATP provide their time pro-bono. However, EDA requires the host communities to cover the costs associated with the EDA practitioners' travel, accommodation, venues and meals, together with some in-kind assistance of their time to handle the administrative and coordination tasks. EDA will provide a dedicated National Coordinator to assist and work with the host community to organise the program, assist in logistics and act as a liaison point for the host communities and EDA practitioners.

Benefits

- ✓ Increased awareness in regional and remote areas of Australia of economic development and EDA.
- ✓ Increased capacity for regional areas to progress their economies.
- ✓ Promotion of the synergies between regional /remote Australian and major centres.
- ✓ Increased skill level for those who undertake the workshops.
- ✓ An opportunity to become part of a national network of economic development practitioners.
- ✓ Introduction of independent thinking on economic development concepts.

Indicatively, the full program consists of:

- ✓ Day One evening - introduction and overview of background of EDA presenters including case studies.
- ✓ Day Two morning – Economic Development Toolbox presentation.
- ✓ Day Two afternoon – informal community interaction.
- ✓ Day Three morning – facilitated community discussion regarding opportunities for progression.

Following the sessions an overview of the outcomes (primarily drawn from the Sunday morning session) is prepared and provided to the organisers for dissemination back through the community.

(This program can be varied depending on the community involved and their needs).

Outcomes

RRATP has been a success for the communities that have taken up this opportunity and it has provided value to the community. The toolbox presentation is viewed by the communities as a valuable resource for future activities in economic development.

The facilitated workshop on the final morning is an integral part of the program and provides the opportunity for community members to have open dialogue amongst themselves, in a structured manner. By compiling a report of these discussions, the host community produces a concrete output that the community can then work from, allowing all members of the community to have input and ownership.

The mix of EDA members involved in this program is excellent with members coming from diverse backgrounds and experiences and able to add significant value.

The following link is to the EDA website
<http://www.edaaustralia.com.au/acecd>

This has some further information and copies of reports from previous communities.