



Community: Where Belonging Begins

Strengthening communities and discovering the everyday neighbourhood assets **with Guest Speaker Cormac Russell**



9am to 5:30pm, Friday 14 August 2026 in Parramatta NSW
Followed by optional networking session to 6:30pm

What if the key to belonging isn't found in a service, but in the strengths that already exist within our neighbourhoods?

Join internationally recognised community development leader Cormac Russell for an inspiring and practical one-day workshop exploring how stronger, more connected communities are built from the inside out.

A highlight of the day is the hands-on community mapping experience. Working in small groups, participants will head out into the local Parramatta neighbourhood to discover the people, places, gathering spaces, associations and everyday assets that make communities thrive.

You'll learn how to see beyond the obvious, identify local opportunities for connection, and practise community discovery techniques you can use in your own neighbourhood.

Throughout the day, Cormac will share practical strategies and examples to help participants shift from asking *"What's wrong?"* to *"What's strong?"* Together, you'll explore how families, neighbours, community groups, councils and organisations can create genuine opportunities for connection, contribution and belonging.

Cost:

- **Free** for people with disability and family members
- **\$45** for professionals



Meet the speaker

Cormac is a social explorer, author and Founding Director of Nurture Development. He is a member of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute at DePaul University, Chicago. For more than 25 years, Cormac has worked across 35 countries, supporting communities, organisations, NGOs and governments to use ABCD and other community-based approaches.

By the end of the workshop, you'll:

- Discover hidden strengths, assets and opportunities in your neighbourhood.
- Experience guided community mapping and learn tools you can use locally.
- Learn how to build meaningful relationships with local people, groups and community connectors.
- Explore strategies to create belonging, valued roles and natural connections for people with disability.
- Understand how families, communities and organisations can work together.
- Leave with practical ideas and a personal action plan to start making community happen where you live.

Register now!

Scan the QR code or click on the link:
https://bit.ly/WhereBelongingBegins_August2026



Contact us on 1800 774 764 or email info@ric.org.au