



MEDIA RELEASE

19 September 2017

icare PARTNERS WITH LCSA TO CONNECT DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

[icare](#) has partnered with the Local Community Services Association (LCSA), sponsoring its annual [Connecting Communities Conference 2017](#) in Sydney (18 to 20 September) to collaborate with diverse local communities to address social issues, build resilience and improve services.

“icare is a social insurer whose goal is to deliver world-class insurance and care services for the 3.7 million customers and 296,000 businesses we serve across NSW,” icare General Manager, Health & Community Engagement, Eugene McGarrell said.

“The Local Community Services Association plays a vital role in improving the social fabric of our community, as it partners directly with local communities, such as the indigenous community in the Redfern, Newtown and Surry Hills precinct, in an authentic way to create positive grassroots social change”, he said.

“Solutions to social problems often originate within local communities. We’ve partnered with the LCSA to explore the role we as a social insurer play in building stronger more connected communities.

“This partnership has great potential to create opportunities to co-design services with other NGOs and agencies, which drive safe and healthy workplaces, increase mental wellbeing in the workplace, and support sustainable return to work.

“By reconnecting injured workers with their community, we build their capacity and confidence to return to work through access to non-medical sources of support,” Mr McGarrell said.

LCSA’s conference will bring together a range of local community leaders representing vulnerable communities from inner-city Sydney.

A highlight at the conference will be Pentti Lemmetyinen, President of the Helsinki-based International Federation of Settlement & Neighbourhood Houses’ - a global grassroots movement for social justice - who will address delegates on social justice issues, such as diversity and inclusion, and the work of Neighbourhood Centres across Europe in effectively advocating for human rights.

The [Connecting Communities Conference 2017](#) runs from 18 to 20 September 2017 at Australian Technology Park, Sydney targeting workers, managers, board members from the social investment sector, government agencies and local businesses; as well as regional and indigenous community partners to look at issues such as:

- Achieving Inclusion;
- Leadership in times of change and uncertainty; and
- Building strong connected communities.

Keynote speakers include:

- **Dr Jackie Huggins** – Co-Chair, National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples
- **Pentti Lemmetyinen** - (Finland) President of the International Federation of Settlement & Neighbourhood Houses
- **Dr Tim Moore** - Senior Research Fellow, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute; Manager, Research & Policy Team, Centre for Community Child Health; and Senior Fellow, Department of Pediatrics, University of Melbourne.

For more information or to register, visit: <http://www.connecting-communities.org.au>

Media Contact: Helen Han | 02. 8297 7570

