

## BIO DATA SUMMARY

# **PETER KENYON**

Peter Kenyon is a social capitalist and community enthusiast. Over the last two decades he has worked with over 1000 communities throughout Australia and overseas seeking to facilitate fresh and creative ways that stimulate community and economic renewal. He is motivated by the desire to create healthy, caring, inclusive, sustainable and enterprising communities and local economies.

Peter has had a background as a youth worker, teacher, youth education officer and tertiary lecturer. His employment experiences have also included Director of Employment in Western Australia, Manager of the Community Employment Development Unit in New Zealand and Coordinator of the Natal Kwazulu Job Creation and Enterprise Strategy in South Africa.

Peter became convinced that one cannot develop communities from the top down or from the outside in. It required communities to build from the inside out, and for their residents to invest themselves, ideas, assets and resources in the process. Subsequently, he created the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. (Initiatives for the Development of Enterprising Action and Strategies) in 1991, to promote such a paradigm shift and assist with the necessary facilitation, ideas and skills.

Peter's consulting work has resulted in assignments in 52 countries and all states of Australia. From 2004, Peter has spent part of each year working in a range of Middle East and North African countries assisting with the development of national youth policies and strategies.

Peter has authored 16 publications within the fields of community and economic development, youth policy development and youth enterprise including the following diverse set of titles -

- *Creating Better Educational and Employment Opportunities for Rural Young People*
- *Youth Enterprise Matters: Involving Young People in their Economic Futures*
- *Survival and Revival in Rural Australia*
- *Taking the Lead: a Community Resource Kit for Local Economic Development*
- *The Small Town Renewal Kit*
- *Youth Policy Formulation Manual*
- *Good Enough Never Is – The Stories of 20 Exceptional and Inspirational Businesses in Rural Australia*
- *Building the Future Through Enterprise – Stories of Successful Indigenous Enterprises and Entrepreneurs*

During 2008, his professional positions illustrated Peter's diverse interests in community, youth and economic development. They included:

- Chairperson of the International Council on National Youth Policy.
- Master Consultant/Trainer for the Business Retention and Expansion Program in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.
- Project Manager for the formulation and implementation of national youth strategies in Somalia.
- Team Leader of Schoolies Timor-Leste – an alternative Schoolies project involving community building in East Timor.
- Project Director for C.R.E.A.T.E Initiative (Creating Rural Entrepreneurial Attitudes through Education) and State Coordinator for r u MAD? (Are You Making A Difference?) Program.
- Program consultant with the *Community Planning Initiative* of the Municipal Association of Victoria.
- Board Member of Fairbridge and Youth Action Kalamunda (youth organisations) and St Brigid's College
- Keynote Presenter at 15 conferences in Australia, USA, Canada, Africa and New Zealand.
- Author of a set of publications related to youth employment and community development.

### THE BANK OF I.D.E.A.S

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