



HOW TO HOST A TABLE TALK!

Who?

6-12 of your friends, family, acquaintances, people from your faith organisation, union, community organisation, anyone!

Where?

The meetings should go for about 45 minutes but you might want to factor in an hour – once people start talking they won't want to stop!

When?

After church, as part of a meeting, for dinner, for post-dinner snacks, on a Saturday afternoon – whenever!

Planning Tips

- If you invite 15 people, 12 will say yes and 8 will show up. Aim to invite about 15 if you hope to get 8-12 people
- Do reminder calls or email to people that said they'd come the day before
- Ask your guests to bring some food if you want food – maybe a pot luck dinner or just some cheese and crackers!
- If people don't know each other, have labels for name tags.

Before the Talk

- Prepare a story about a pressure that you experience around Employment & Training or Care.
- Ask someone to be a notetaker. Make sure they know they need to capture the stories as stories, not summarize the themes. We are interested in the humanity of the stories.
- Ask someone to be a time-keeper.
- Prepared a sign on sheet so you can capture the details of everyone who participates.

AGENDA FOR THE TABLE TALK

1. Introduce yourself, and tell people why you decided to host a table talk.
2. Ask everyone to introduce themselves.
3. Tell people about the Queensland Community Alliance, the Discernment Assembly to work on Employment and Training and Aged Care, and the plan for our Founding Assembly.
4. Explain that it's about sharing stories, not analysis. And this is a public setting so we want public stories. That's why we'll be taking notes.
5. Ask for permission to interrupt.
6. Share a story about a pressure you face.
7. Ask others to share stories of their experiences and have a free flowing discussion (make sure everyone is heard)
8. Summarise what you heard
9. Talk about the next steps that people could take, like organise their own Table talk.
10. Invite people to RSVP for the Founding Assembly on 30 August – via qldcommunityalliance.org
11. Thank people for their attendance.
12. If anyone wants to debrief after the finish, you will be available.

After the Table Talk:

1. Immediately scan or take a photo of each page of the notes and email to irena@qldcommunityalliance.org
2. Ask someone to type up the notes, either by entering them into the Excel worksheet provided, or by typing them directly in to the online form at <http://www.qldcommunityalliance.org/stories>
3. Identify the people who got engaged, and organise follow up one on one meetings to learn why, and how they want to get engaged.

Options for further action for Table Talk attendees

1. Commit to attend the Founding Assembly on 30 August at Brisbane City Hall.

They can RSVP online via www.qldcommunityalliance.org/founding_assembly

2. Recommend people who might be interested in attending another table talk.

This could include sending an email introducing you to people, personal introductions, or giving you the contact details for people who might be interested.

3. Talk to someone who might have another story and send it through

This could be a one on one conversation with someone they know who has a strong story about the Employment and Training or Care themes. They could submit this story directly via www.qldcommunityalliance.org/stories

4. Hold their own table talk

If people are fired up, you could give them a copy of this guide, and the notes template the run the table talk, or agreed to run one together, where they get 8-12 people together, and you help run the table talk.

The following options for action we would recommend exploring with attendees through a one on one meeting.

5. Join a Research Action team and meet with experts to encourage them to help us find solutions.

There are two Research Action teams, one on Employment and Training, and one on Care. Each meet monthly between now and August. Both will organise meetings with academics and experts to find solutions to the pressures we face. If someone would be interested in determining the solutions we work on, email their details dave@qldcommunityalliance.org.

6. Be part of visiting their local MP to share their story and invite them to attend the Assembly.

We will be organising meetings with the Members of Parliament for most electorates in South East Queensland in the leadup to the Founding Assembly, to invite them to attend, and ask that they ensure that Premier Palaszczuk and Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls attends the Assembly and commits to work with the Queensland Community Alliance.

7. Become an Assembly officer, commit to turn out 10 people to the Founding Assembly and attend the June and July training.

8. Attend 2 day Foundations of Community Organising Training on 9 and 10 June.

RSVP at www.qldcommunityalliance.org/foundations_training_jun17