

'How to talk to community and pathways to a trusted source'- Graeme Gardner, TasNetworks

Pathways to a trusted source

1. **Elder introduction** - An elder is a trusted source. If you're young and unknown an elder can work with you to open the doors and introduce you.
2. **Someone to ring** – leverage your network and kick start the process if being introduced. Look for an elder to have a mentoring role and tapping into existing knowledge
3. **Understanding** - between urban and regional and remote communities. Different sensitivities eg. different language
4. **Value of a trust source** What happens when there isn't one? You don't have to do it on your own. Work with partners. Look at what you want to achieve and what's the best outcome. Work with someone to go and speak to community and pass on thoughts and feelings.
5. **Set up legacy** - Introduce others in... Create opportunities with other organisations connected to the community. Support them to enable a pathway into ASTI.

How to talk the community? Even if you're Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (ASTI)...

Key factors of relationship building:

- Consider community politics and organisations
- Get advice!
- Look at means to achieve what you must do
- Before this is one, know what organisations can do rather than listen and never deliver. Sometimes ASTI views are way out of the parameters of what can be done
- Talk about what the community would like and get their views
- Don't go back and forth. This is a risk to the relationship
- Focus on mutual understanding rather than firm stance on being 'against the act' where possible

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ASTI communities

- Keep it simple when building principles
- Co-create guidelines and make sure it's not a how-to guide

Cultural Awareness – what doesn't work

- Drawing attention and awareness doesn't solve problems.
- Inviting Aboriginal communities to engage as a one off rather than ongoing.
- Have people come into the office rather than go out to community