

Voice 4

Indi

NEXT STEPS

From the public meeting in Benalla held in November 2013

What will shape Voice for Indi's goals for 2014 and beyond? Quite simply, it will be what the community tells us!

In November 2013, V4I held a forum in Benalla to review its progress and to begin to develop directions and actions for the future. Over one hundred people attended from all parts of the region.

Key feedback was that:

- the V4I process has been inclusive and has empowered many different voices and has helped people re-connect with the true meaning of democracy
- the consultation process had been the first time that many had been asked what they thought
- people were very interested in being connected and staying involved through V4I
- people wanted their voices heard at all levels of government and
- the V4I approach gave younger people an opportunity to engage.

Attendees said they were attracted to V4I because it offered a platform for politics based on civility, not combat. And that the V4I's adherence to the universal values of trust and respect for alternative views contrasted greatly with the negative party politics and abusive and outrageous behaviour we have become used to from our politicians.

The forum identified many potential next steps which are outlined in this document.

As a result, the anticipated key tasks for 2014 include:

1. Hold regional forums in March 2014 to update supporters on Voice for Indi's activities and to seek input for an electorate-wide forum in September 2014
2. Get the V4I website up-to-date!
3. Complete documenting the V4I story
4. Host a second round of Kitchen Table Conversations during May and June with a focus on both Federal and State issues
5. Develop a fundraising strategy
6. Look at ways to collaborate with likeminded organizations
7. Participate and attend relevant conferences to share the V4I story and approach with other communities

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NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

invite other Indi constituents in • V4I model to be used in other electorates throughout Australia and the world!



People are interested in the model being available for other electorates and want to be inclusive of all political backgrounds.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL MEMBER

distinction between V4I role and Cathy/other political representatives needs clarification • create active dialogue between Indi constituents and Federal member • have access to information which helps explain the federal member's stance on issues, and how decisions have been made when a part of trade-offs • be informed of what Indi issues are coming up soon for the Federal member to address the parliament • we need to clearly demonstrate that our local /state / federal members are truly representing this electorate • V4I to continue with the engagement process to help / inform the federal member • V4I to provide feedback from region to federal member, to other political representatives, and the electorate • establish points of interaction between V4I members, with federal member and other levels of government



People want V4i to assist with transparent, creative and active two-way dialogue with the local member that is relayed back to the electorate.

SOCIAL MEDIA

shape the future, with social media • use of social media to engage and inform and to listen • we have relevance for a broader audience • V4I # Cathy McGowan.



Social media should be used to inform and shape the electorate and beyond.

PROCESSES

V4I connect with other community groups, form an umbrella? • how we act and engage with politics and issues in our communities; build trust to speak up • don't push an agenda, go out to other groups in the community and ask the questions 'What matters to you?; or V4I is wanting to know about...what do you think? • keep the kitchen conversations, and expand them • keep the integrity of the process and include broad views, many voices • bringing together other services / workplaces / community organisations • a model for sustainable involvement • wider representation of broader demographic views • V4I – a conduit for diverse conversations • create and use clear processes such as kitchen table café conversations where people feel safe, and can trust others



The V4i processes of diverse conversations, with many voices, in safe environments, can be used to create wide representation and involvement to explore issues within our community.

PHILOSOPHY AND STRUCTURE OF V4I

underlying values need to be continually promoted • Take V4I model to other electorates • maintain visibility • tell the heart of the V4I story and publicise with integrity • maintaining energy and momentum, aligned with V4i values • maintain a non-exclusive image • how does the community perceive V4i? • spreading the word south of Benalla • reconnected with what it means to be an Australian – unified a vision for the future beyond three term • apathy is the new enemy • celebrate diversity • courage – take the momentum of the campaign and go for it • keep V4i active, dynamic and inclusive • clearing-house role linking issues and activists and connecting people • regular generating of funds • staying non-partisan and respectful • V4i research person • engagement of all demographics and minorities and vulnerable groups and non-voters • sustainable and project given • community working groups through the whole of Indi eg black spot issues and trains • uphold the core values • engagement of all age ranges • lateral decision making • change to Voices 4 Indi • keep Voice for Indi non-partisan • V4i remain politically neutral • specific special interest groups • whole group forum to develop the special interest groups, mirroring the parliamentary structure



The people want V4i to be a lateral process, connecting and engaging a cross section of people, ideas, and issues across the electorate, being active, dynamic, non-partisan and inclusive, whilst respectful of V4i core values.

LISTENING AND FUN

V4i engaging with stakeholders who represent local issues • hearing from experts on particular topics – NBN, climate change • building a process that is accessible to everyone in electorate • kitchen table conversations and linking people • keep the fun • V4i to facilitate sharing community ideas • positive energy • fun • enabling everyone to have a voice • being good listeners v continue to listen • short sharp delineated action • continued conversations and listening to people.



People want to be linked with people, ideas and issues in a fun, participatory way.

FOCUS

maintain and increase the momentum • V4I branding • keep focused on issues which affect everyone- mobile phones, health, trains and transport • V4I method • stay focused on Indi's issues but enable other people to contribute and assist with this • V4I can be used as a resource for issues and process • having something to give us focus • keeping the flame alive • we need a focus to keep the energy • Indi has no boundaries • supporting and inspiring others • stay focused on Indi issues • maintain a profile of V4I participants



V4i can use its process to maintain and encourage the momentum, energy and focus on key issues within the electorate.

COMMUNICATION

ongoing update/progress reports of what's going well, being achieved • regular meetings • being given accurate, honest, realistic information about how things need to happen • communication processes for all to stay connected • individual communication • accessibility • multiple entry points and ways to contribute • ongoing and open communication channels • contribute using social media as a communication tool • communication V4I goals to broader community • have a 'suggestion box'



There needs to be open, accessible and regular communication through a wide range of mediums within the V4i community, for people to stay informed and engaged.

ISSUES

tailored approach • responding to the different needs of communities – south Indi • explore funded positions / projects • place and issue based smaller groups to feedback into V4I and the local members • delving into deeper issues and consequences • prioritize issues across electorate • keep the issues identified at the forefront of people's minds • test the issues and ask 'what else is there'? • shape the future • support / discuss big issues • resilience • sustainability • flood and fire issues



V4i community can shape the future by staying informed and engaged in local, relevant and prioritized issues in Indi.

EDUCATION

ongoing training in different types • individual community development – skills and leadership • voter education – how to use preferential voting • education and skills development at a community level • education around political processes and systems at all levels • educating in democracy – tools for action • education about local issues – hold events with experts • education in schools and communities about democratic values in a fun and creative way • learn about Indi • expand knowledge base of community – how decisions are made in Parliament • education of youth and community in state and federal parliamentary processes



Be creative in seeking opportunities for schools and communities to learn about Indi and its issues; to understand and be informed about parliamentary process; to engage in community and individual development; to learn tools for action in democratic process and to have issue and interest conversations with experts in their fields.

THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

what role does V4I have in state elections? • develop connections over the three levels of government • engage at different government levels – state and local • expand V4I to state and local • provide focus on issues and federal policies already identified • V4I endorsing other candidates, federal, state, local



V4i could be involved and connect across issues and candidates at all levels of government.