

**Background:**

Opening Doors was established in 2009 by the Inner-East Social Inclusion Initiative. Following extensive consultation and research, the partnership recognised the importance of promoting social inclusion - and the strong links that exist between poor health outcomes and being socially isolated. This is particularly the case for people who may be isolated due to frailty, disability, poor mental health, cultural background, low income or other barriers.

Now in its ninth year, Opening Doors has supported more than 130 graduates from all walks of life, who continue to create change in their communities on a daily basis.

**Cost:**

This program is provided free to community members. A contribution will be welcomed from participants that are supported by an agency or community organisation.

**How To Apply:**

If you would like to apply for the 2017 Opening Doors Program, or simply find out more, we would love to hear from you. Please contact:

Alex Mills  
Coordinator

**P:** 8822 8327 **M:** 0448 308 052  
**E:** [amills@linkhc.org.au](mailto:amills@linkhc.org.au)  
**W:** <http://www.linkhc.org.au>

The 2017 program commences on July 5th and consists of an initial 3 day opening retreat. This is followed by 11 full-day sessions to be run fortnightly on Thursdays, culminating in a graduation ceremony in mid December.



Proudly acknowledging the support of our patron, Jonathon Welch AM  
Founder of Social Inclusion Week and The Choir of Hard Knocks, as seen on ABC TV

*This program could not operate without the generous support of:*



# Opening Doors

2017

A community leadership program for Social Inclusion



Are you willing to take the lead in making your community more inclusive?



Inner East Social Inclusion Initiative

“Opening Doors was great. It gave me the opportunity to meet so many new people, facilitators and supporters. I’ve told everyone about it and what a huge difference it’s made for me.”

*(Tuncay, Opening Doors Graduate)*

“Opening Doors gave me the confidence to first think of myself as a leader—but also to *be* a leader. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to make a difference.”

*(Samatha, Opening Doors Graduate)*

“I have made new friends, built strong networks and relationships, and have had lots of fun times. Opening Doors has absolutely opened my eyes.”

*(Yun Ja, Opening Doors Graduate)*

“It’s very easy for me to be completely inspired by the energy and commitment of everyone in this program. This is the stuff that really makes a difference to people’s lives.”

*(Former Mayor of Monash, Cr Stefanie Perri)*

The Inner East Social Inclusion Initiative is seeking interested and passionate people to take part in the Opening Doors Community Leadership Program for Social Inclusion.

The aim of the program is to equip you with the knowledge, skills, resources and networks you need to make your local community more socially inclusive.

This will be achieved by supporting you in the development of a community initiative in your local area or municipality.

### The course will include:

- A three-day opening retreat at a scenic location in the Plenty Valley, facilitated by Gayle Hardie from Global Leadership Foundation, allowing participants to get to know one another and begin exploring ideas
- Workshops on Asset-Based Community Development
- Visits to best practise community spaces, organisations and projects
- Extensive support to develop a local initiative that connects community members at risk of social isolation
- Support in learning new skills and building on your current strengths and abilities
- Opportunities to discuss your interests and passions with other participants and program supporters, develop ideas and seek resources in support of your project

### Benefits:

- Build your leadership skills
- Increase your understanding of how social isolation occurs and how to address it
- Expand your community networks
- Increase your knowledge of (and access to) resources
- Build self-confidence
- Contribute meaningfully to your community

### Your Commitment:

If you join the Opening Doors Program, we will ask that you make an ongoing commitment to community development. This includes:

- Some out of program hours, where required
- A commitment to continue with your community initiative beyond the life of the program
- A desire to contribute to your community in an ongoing way

### Eligibility:

To be eligible for the Opening Doors Program, you must live, work or play in the Inner-East municipalities of Monash, Boroondara, Whitehorse or Manningham.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, or have any questions regarding the program, please contact Program Coordinator, Alex Mills (details listed overleaf).

