# Community Development Principles

**Stakeholder Engagement/Public Participation**
Stakeholders are people, groups, or organisations that have a vested interest in Shelter SA's activities and outcomes, including consumers who are integral to the decision-making, evaluation, provision, participation and direction setting at all levels of the organisation.

**Ownership**
Stakeholders and members are actively involved in decision-making and have ownership of the organisation's activities. The organisation works co-operatively and collaboratively with the Board, branches, staff, volunteers, members and the wider public, to generate a range of benefits.

**Empowerment**
A process that respects, values and enhances people's ability to have control over their lives is put into practice. This process encourages people to meet their needs and aspirations in a self-aware and informed way which takes advantage of their skills, experience and potential. Change and growth occurs through informing and empowering individuals and groups.

**Lifelong Learning**
Learning is integrated into all aspects of activities, to build and support the personal skills, knowledge, abilities and resilience of people. They develop health, wellbeing and connections to other people through formal and informal pathways in education, employment and self-development.

**Inclusion**
The diverse contributions that people make are valued, no matter what their background or varying abilities. Individual and local needs are acknowledged and addressed, often through informal interaction. Identifying these needs and issues through a range of methods is instrumental to informing the planning and development of activities and programs.

**Access and Equity**
Promote a fairer distribution of social and economic resources and power between people by aiming to improve the social, environmental, economic and cultural infrastructures where they live.

**Social Action**
Internal and external factors that impact South Australians are analysed and relationships between individuals, groups and organisations are transformed through collective action.

**Advocacy**
In meeting individual and group needs, the organisation acts with, or on behalf of, stakeholders.

**Networking**
Linking, forming alliances, collaborating and working with individuals, groups, other agencies, government and business is crucial, using formal and informal methods to achieve connections within local areas. Individuals are supported in coming together in a group environment to share information, knowledge, skills and life experience.

Adapted from: http://www.communitylaw.org.au