

The Benefits and Challenges of Working with a Community Group

Bronwyn Gilson¹, Ashleigh Dempster², [[Click here and enter an author](#)]³

1 University of New England, Armidale NSW, bgilson2@une.edu.au

2 University of New England, Armidale NSW, adempst2@une.edu.au

3 "[[Click here and enter an Organisation, Postal Address, State, Postcode, Email Address \(optional\) for Author 3](#)]"

Providers are the experts on international students' social and cultural needs, right? After all we have to meet our obligations under the National Code (Australia) or Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students (New Zealand).

Prompted by this year's Conference theme we thought it would be timely to evaluate the partnership UNE International has with the Armidale International Association, a community based group that formed 22 years ago to meet a need they saw within Armidale to assist the small number of international students who had started to arrive into their community. Over the past 8 years we have worked to foster and grow a valuable relationship and to narrow the focus of activities and events to ensure students experience 'the real Australia and its culture' and have the opportunity to meet and mix with students from other countries including domestic students. We will discuss our Calendar of UNE and Community Events, the issues of dealing with a volunteer organisation, deciding on what activities will be run and who takes the lead role, and of course, the issue of funding.