

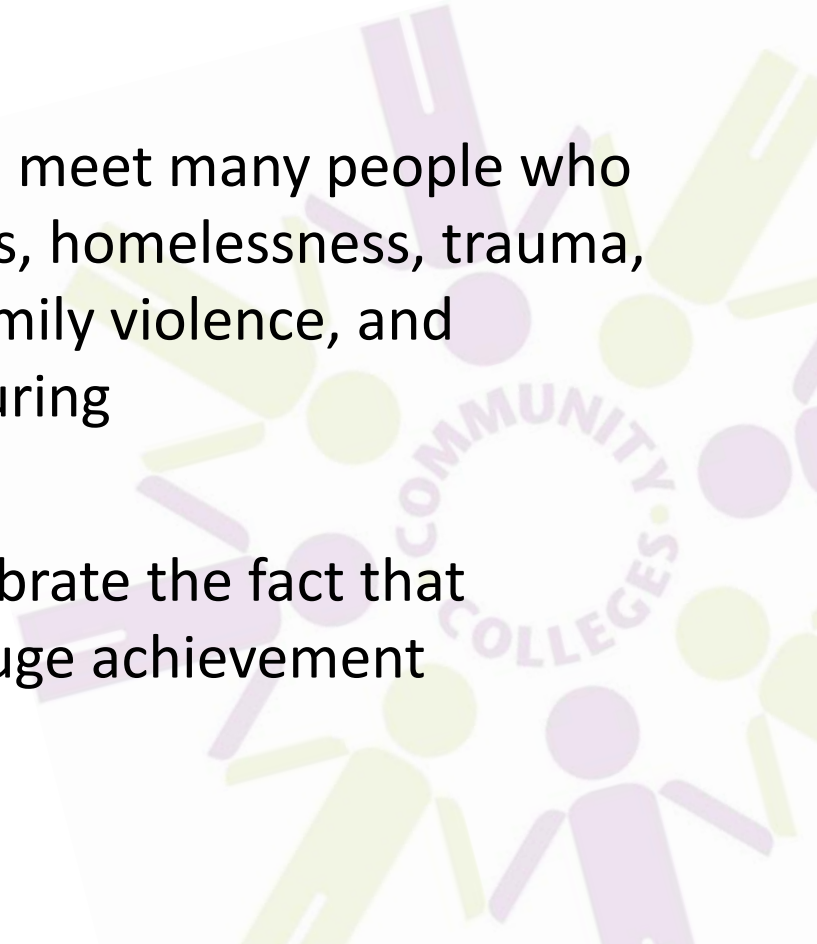
CCA Conference: Expanding Possibilities  
Brisbane, 19-20 November 2018

# Student Engagement – Celebrating our shared vulnerabilities as strengths

Dr Robbie Lloyd, Community Relationships & Wellbeing Manager  
Mid North Coast Community College Ltd, Port Macquarie, NSW

# Learning from St Paul and the Corinthians

- “When I am weak, then am I strong”, said St Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:10
- Working in community colleges, we meet many people who have been through extreme distress, homelessness, trauma, dislocation, warfare, domestic & family violence, and redundancy after industry restructuring
- Perhaps it’s time we started to celebrate the fact that overcoming these challenges is a huge achievement



## ACEing it on a daily basis

- ACE (Adult Community Education) needs to do more to challenge the politicians' mindset, that is stuck in thinking that only TAFE achieves significant adult education outcomes.
- By celebrating the amazing people we partner with in helping to create new lives TOGETHER, we can share the good news, and argue for changes to strict VET course allocations, so we can be more supportive of people needing life support.
- Showing that Learning and Life Development in our long tradition of Lifelong, Lifewide and Transgenerational Learning, is at the core of all our magic programs for changing lives.

## Common areas for magical outcomes

- The Mid North Coast Community College where I work in NSW, started in Port Macquarie & Wauchope 35 years ago.
- We have now built a wider footprint stretching from Taree to Coffs Harbour, with a growing engagement with:
  - At Risk Young People and Women,
  - Vulnerable Families affected by Domestic Violence,
  - Long term Unemployed,
  - Aboriginal people,
  - Refugees & Migrants,
  - Early Child Care in its scratchiest frontline hours of before & after school and vacation support, and
  - Working to celebrate those living with all forms of Disability, Mental Health challenges, Addiction, plus PTSD.

# Share more about the great outcomes

- All these folks have suffered much, and their “vulnerability and weakness” is what brings us all together in sharing our basic humanity “in the raw” in person-centred and community-building ways.
- By sharing our stories we can help each other to find more hope and to acknowledge the great things each person does in their daily life.
- This is something ACE can focus on much more, to help raise awareness across society that we are helping people to heal and empower themselves in our communities of belonging.

# Case Studies tell the story better than stat's

- Personalised Stories of ACE's success are little local miracles that prove the inherent worth and beauty in all human lives.
- We don't claim to be anything other than Facilitators of Learning Experiences WITH out students. But that's a lot more significant than we sometimes bother to share about.
- Other learning environments have become so impersonal and detached, often they are completely virtual worlds, that our personal touch in Relationship-based Learning is a rarity.

# Simply Changing Lives on a Daily Basis

- While CCA takes the bigger picture argument to the politicians & bureaucrats, we can all share in our local media and personal contacts the daily successes that are changing lives.
- People come together to help others when they are in need, as has been happening with the drought & the bushfires. It's the same with our Vulnerable Learners, so tell the world!
- What are you doing to let people know about those folks whose lives you have changed this year?

# Contacts

**Dr Robbie Lloyd**

**Community Relationships & Wellbeing Manager  
Mid North Coast Community College & Nautilus  
Special Assistance High School;**

**Chairperson of MNC Human Services Alliance;  
Board Member of Adult Learning Australia.**

**77 Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie 2444**

**02-65162245; 0429 128 639**

**[robbie.lloyd@mncce.edu.au](mailto:robbie.lloyd@mncce.edu.au)**