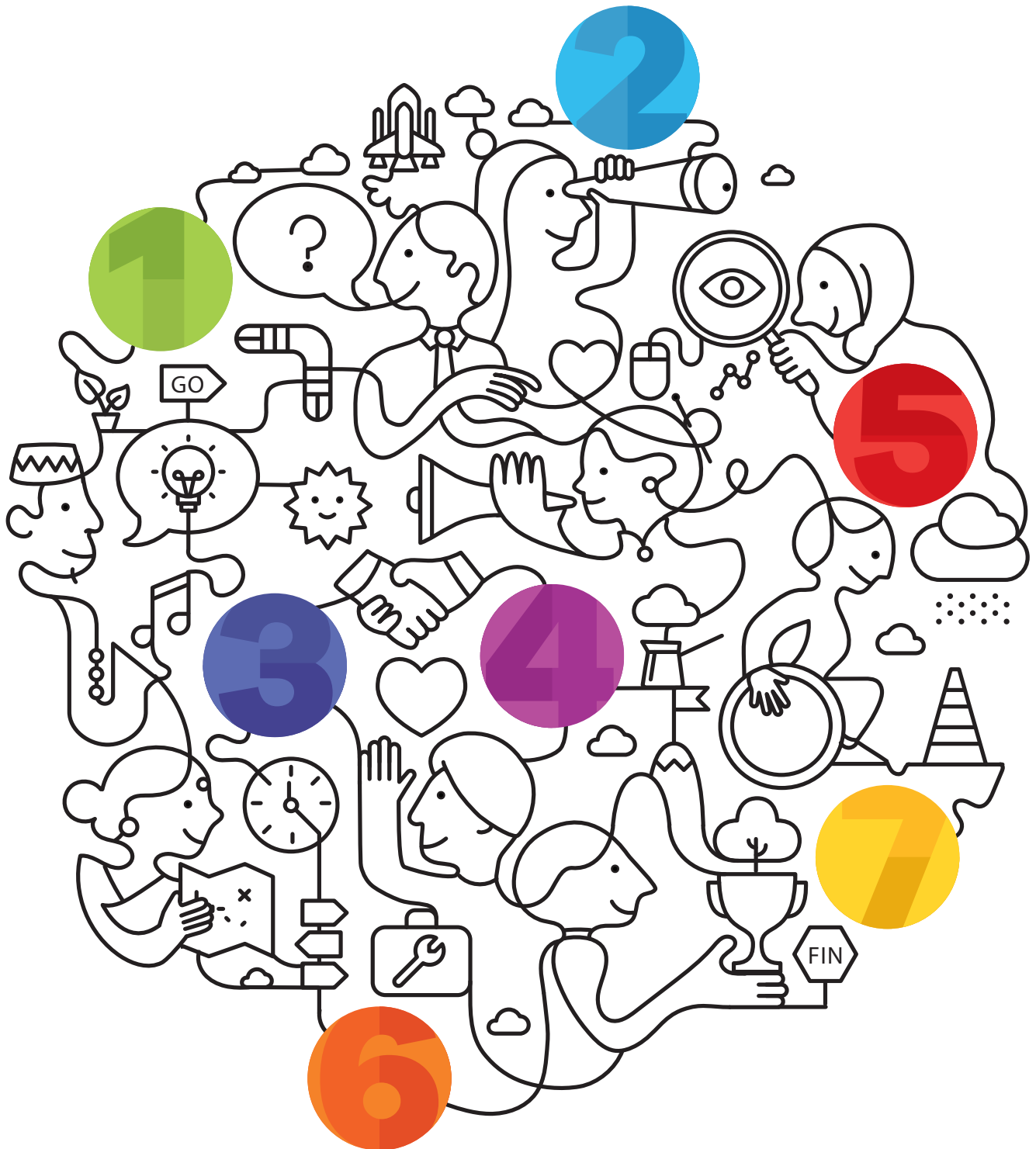


STRONG PEER NETWORKS

Connecting the Beads Together



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This workbook has been co-produced in collaboration with a group of people passionate about peer networks and the benefits they bring.

In particular we acknowledge the contribution of the co-design group members:

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PeerConnect respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Australia. We are committed to inclusive communities.

CONTENTS

	WELCOME.....	4
	STRINGING THE BEADS TOGETHER.....	5
	STARTING A PEER NETWORK	6
	CHECKING YOUR PEER NETWORK'S PURPOSE	13
	BRINGING NEW ENERGY TO THE NETWORK	19
	INVITING NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN	23
	RESPONDING TO TRICKY SITUATIONS	28
	SURVIVING UNEXPECTED CHANGES	35
	FINISHING THE PEER NETWORK WELL	39
	GOOD LUCK.....	44
	NOTES FOR ACTION	43

WELCOME



Welcome to this workbook. It has been created by people running peer networks or organisations around Australia.

This workbook has been designed for:

1. People who are interested in setting up a peer network
2. People already involved in peer networks, looking for ways to keep their peer network strong

By drawing on the experiences of peer networks and the people involved, this workbook will take you through a range of ideas about how to get your network started, how to refresh your network when it hits a low point, and how to finish peer networks well.

It is not a recipe book; it is a guide to help you get started, and to help you think through how your network is going and what you can do.

To help you find your way around, the workbook is organised into seven parts:

1. Starting a peer network
2. Checking your peer network's purpose
3. Bringing new energy to the network
4. Inviting new members to join
5. Responding to tricky situations
6. Surviving unexpected changes
7. Finishing the peer network well

STRINGING THE BEADS TOGETHER

The Peer Connect website currently has lots of QuickGuides on setting up and running peer networks. These are stored as a browsable library resource. The challenge is that these QuickGuides are like the beads sitting in a bowl – you have to rummage through the bowl to find the one you want!

This workbook arranges these beads into a string, making it easier to move from one to the next. As you read through you might think: 'Ah yes, that's where we're at' and get some ideas to move through it, so that the peer network is strong.

Each bead represents an aspect of peer networks you might want to work on. You can either work on all of them, one at a time starting from the beginning, or you can go straight to the bead that makes most sense to your situation.

