

Thinking about school community partnerships?

The nature of partnerships can vary depending on the need, purpose and willingness of the schools and organisations involved. It can be useful to view the types of partnerships along a continuum. VicHealth, through the Partnerships Analysis Tool, suggest four types of partnerships outlined below. Not all partnerships should or will move to collaboration. In some cases, networking is an appropriate response.

Collaboration includes enhancing the capacity of the other partner for mutual benefit, a common purpose and requires the partner to give up a part of their turf . *(Eg. The school and a local business contribute funding to a community agency for their Communications Officer to coordinate the school community newsletter)*

COOPERATING

Cooperating involves exchanging information, altering activities and sharing resources. It requires a significant amount of time, high level of trust between partners and sharing the turf.

(Eg. A group made up of students, staff, parents, community and business owners co-construct the school community newsletter)

2 COORDINATING

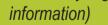
Coordinating involves exchanging information and altering activities for a common purpose. (Eg. Local community organisations and businesses contribute information and articles to the school newsletter)

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NETWORKING

Networking involves the exchange of information for mutual benefit. This requires little time and trust between partners.

(Eg. School sends the school newsletter to local community organisations and businesses for



1

Adapted from Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), *The Partnerships Analysis Tool*, <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/en/Publications/Mental-health-promotion/Partnerships-Analysis-Tool.aspx>.



Reproduced from the CEOM Family School Partnerships e-newsletter distributed each term. While the e-newsletter is targeted at school communities involved in the Smarter Schools : National Partnerships, Family School Partnerships initiative, it is a resource that is relevant to all school communities.