

New Public Squares Project

Welcome! We're so very glad to have you involved in this project.

Our work in 2020 showed us that many people are weary of struggle, but they are also attuned to the desire for deeper transformation. They are longing to be part of bigger solutions, not just endless critique. They are asking for places to come together and connect in joyful, purposeful ways across difference; without being treated as a means to someone else's predetermined end.

People are asking for community, agency and belonging. They are asking for new and renewed conversations within safe spaces and inviting public squares. They are asking to contribute.

In response to this Australia reMADE is launching a New Public Squares project, a deep networked approach to an ambitious, collaborative and transformative building of a new agenda, a new common sense, for the public good.

This document is intended as a brief project overview for participating organisations and facilitators.

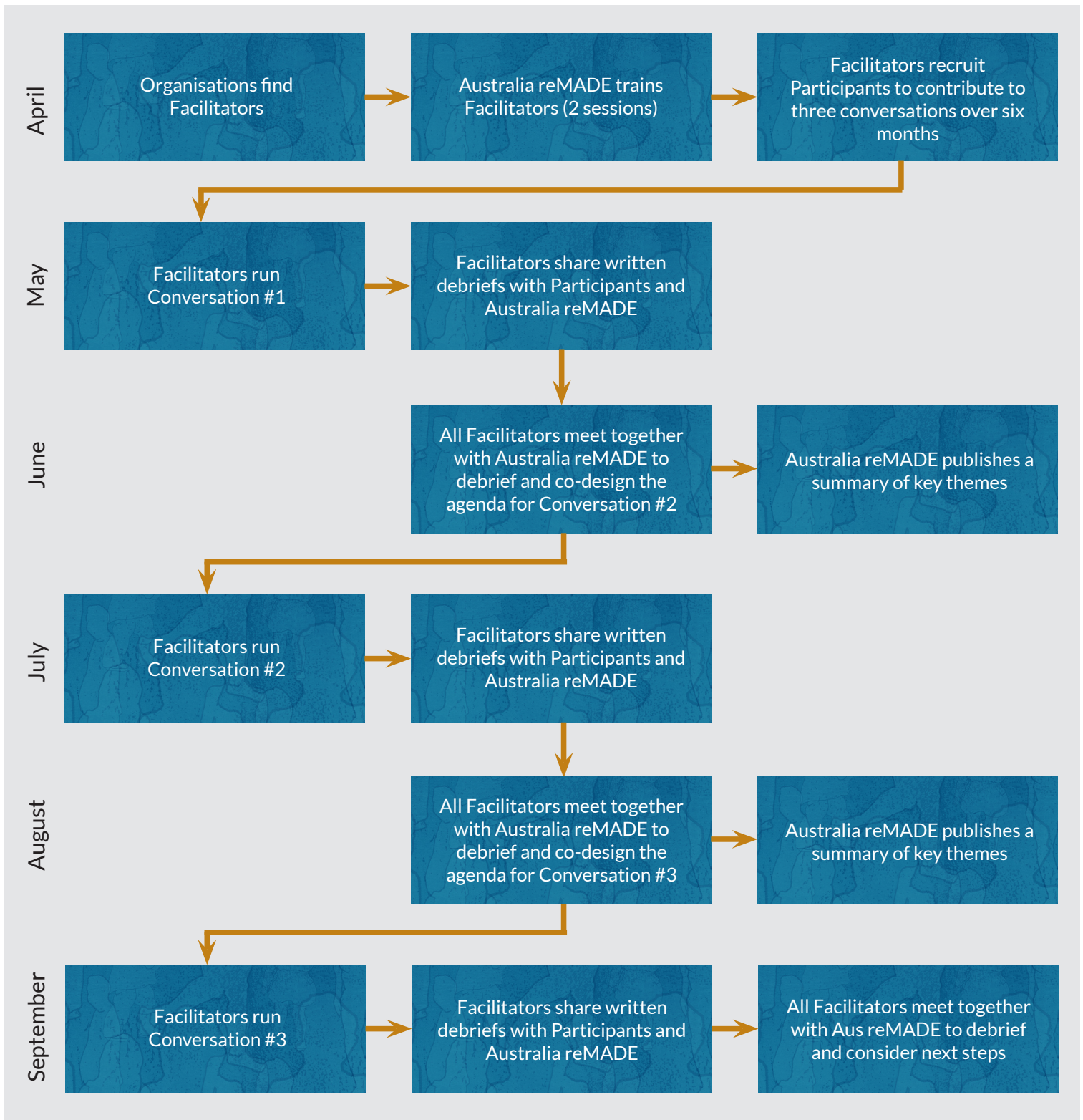


About the project

The New Public Squares Project is built on a series of three consecutive conversations around the theme of the public good. Participating organisations/networks facilitate these conversations, with each agenda building on the last (for an outline of project flow, see page 2). Participants will remain the same for each of the conversations allowing for deeper analysis, connection and insights to develop.

While the agenda for the first conversation has been developed by Australia reMADE, the second and third agendas will be developed collectively by facilitators as key themes emerge.

Project Flow

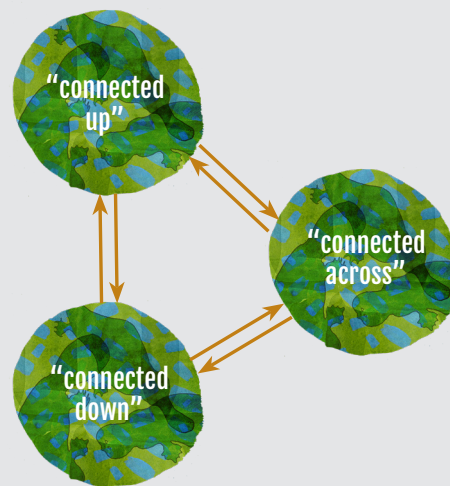


The three key aims of the New Public Squares Project are to:

- Build a new big picture agenda around a shared notion of public good
- Elevate a conversation about the public good, asking “What should drive our decision making as a country?”
- Connect within and across networks, communities and organisations to rebuild trust, avoid polarisation, and reMAKE the public square

As our conversations develop, themes and agendas are:

- “**connected up**” nationally to project leaders, networks and supporting organisations
- “**connected across**” to other groups and communities going through a similar process
- “**connected down**” more deeply into local communities and organisations



Definitions

Public good

Public good means ensuring that the things we (the population) decide are important are available and accessible where and when they are needed, regardless of whether they make anyone a profit.

There are three broad categories of public good:

- Things (such as schools, hospitals, park benches, healthcare).
- Rules/contexts (such as democracy, clean air, safe climate).
- Connections/capacities (such as time, faith, culture, community, creativity).

Public squares

Public squares are the spaces (physical and virtual) for us (the population) to come together to share ideas, debate nuance, and actively contribute and participate in community life and governance.

For those wanting more insights into the background thinking around these concepts you can read our work on [Introducing the public good](#), and [Unravelling privatisation](#). The findings of the 2020 pilot project will also be made available ASAP.

Who is involved?

There are a range of organisations involved in the project. Including but not limited to Uniting Church, Y-Change, Refugee Voices, First People's Disability Network, Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association, women's health networks in regional Victoria and ACOSS.

The Australia reMADE **National Coordinator** (Millie Rooney) is responsible for supporting all Key Liaisons and Facilitators to participate in this project. She will train facilitators, collate findings, run facilitator debriefs and help develop conversation agendas.

The **Key Liaisons** are senior people within organisations and networks who are supportive of this project, provide access to facilitators and participants and who will engage strategically in the process outcomes.

The **Facilitators** are the heart of this project and will be responsible for:

- Recruiting conversation participants (supported by key liaisons)
- Attending 2x60-90-minute training sessions in April:
 - Wednesday 21st April 3-5pm
 - Thursday 22nd April 3-5pm
- Running 3x60-90-minute conversations in May, July, September
- Reporting on the three conversations using the provided template
- Attending 3x60-90-minute debrief with the National Coordinator and other facilitators
- Other communications as appropriate (organisational newsletter, local media etc)

It is anticipated that the Facilitator role will require between 20-30 hours between April – October.

Facilitators will be provided with the following resources:

- A project summary for sharing with potential participants
- A recruitment email to be adapted for recruiting participants
- Written agendas and facilitation notes for each of the three conversations
- A word document template for capturing both the content and the vibe of conversations
- A facilitated conversation with other Facilitators about outcomes of conversations
- Help to collectively develop sequential public good conversations
- A Slack channel for asking questions, sharing insights and sharing resources
- Access to the National Coordinator for support as needed

Outputs

There are a variety of expected material outputs from this project. These include:

- Strong connections within and across networks/organisations
- A re-energising of networks and individuals to collaborate for the public good
- 4 x Australia reMADE articles summarising themes arising
- 1-2 reMAKER Memos sharing practical insights from this project with the Australia reMADE network.
- Support for additional internal and external content to be developed with partners - eg: local newspaper article, organisational newsletter, Australia reMADE article highlighting each group, etc
- Content on reMAKER U, the Australia reMADE education resource for leaders wanting to become systems literate, transformative and to lead with vision (www.australiaremade.org/remakeru)
- The potential to take this project further in 2022 (e.g. events, a national summit, a publication, a campaign)

How we work

An essential part of the New Public Squares project is the recognition that we must create spaces for disagreement, for interrogation of ideas, for practicing and polishing our thinking and expression. While more details of how we do this will be provided in the agenda packs for Facilitators, it is worth acknowledging up front the values driving this project.

We do this work with the intention of creating an Australia reMADE based on the 9 pillars of our vision (see www.australiaremade.org/the-vision). This vision is based on the values of:

- Unity with nature
- Equal worth of all people
- Interdependence and community

In the context of the new public squares project this means a collective commitment to listening to each other (particularly when opinions differ), being willing to exist in a space of new and messy ideas, being kind, accepting imperfection and working together rather than in competition.

Organisations and networks are required to agree to uphold these values throughout this project.

Intellectual property

Facilitators will keep a written record of the themes emerging from each conversation. These will be available to all other Facilitators and the National Coordinator. With permission from participants some conversations may be recorded.

No names or identifying details of participants are to be used without Participant consent.

Australia reMADE will hold copies of all records of conversations and may use the (anonymous) content in future blogs, memos, reMAKER U content etc. Where participants and/or organisations would like to be credited this will be done.

All participating organisations/networks are welcome to use any of the themes, ideas, or “data” that emerges from conversations.

We ask that organisations/networks ask permission from other participating groups before using content from outside their own conversations.

Facilitators will be briefed in more details about these protocols.

About Australia reMADE

Australia reMADE promotes **a vision of the country we're aiming for**, and the systems change needed to create it.

We're an independent, non-profit leadership network for reMAKERS at all levels of society. We are funded by a range of civil society organisations and philanthropy.

To get in touch, contact info@AustraliareMADE.org

Living, loving and working across this country, we respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to elders both past and present.