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## **Social enterprise networks** **checklist**

### **Developing the tool**

At community and regional city levels, we found evidence that the social enterprises in our study support development of social capital through bonding, bridging and linking networks that operate and form links within social enterprises, and across the community and beyond, for employees, staff and other community members, civil society and businesses.

Tool 3 assesses social enterprise interactions with other regional city (community) actors.

### **How might you use this tool?**

This tool can support social enterprises to reflect on their contribution to local social capital and community capacity.

This assessment might be usefully led by a social enterprise's management and board. As with our study, a more in-depth assessment could involve: first, conducting a thorough listing of known contacts (addressing the components in Tool 3 of Networks and People who operationalise Networks); and second, conducting a set of interviews with key informants at city/community level (including local government, political, chamber of commerce and regional development agency representatives). Interviews could particularly address elements Social Enterprise Economic Position and Working in Partnership aspects.

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## Social enterprise networks checklist

### To what extent does the social enterprise have these attributes of social capital?

#### Networks

**Linking networks** involving people or institutions at other levels of power, either within or beyond the city that can provide access to additional resources (e.g. relationships with business groups/chambers of commerce/ Local/State/Federal Government, peak bodies, Universities).

**Bridging networks** involving people, institutions or groups at the regional city level (e.g. with other local social enterprises, local businesses as customers, partner organisations such as schools). These help to develop and sustain capacity of social enterprises to engage productively with others, and for others to interact with social enterprises.

The goal is for networks that operate well locally and beyond the regional city that facilitate access to a range of useful resources.

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#### People who operationalise networks

**Presence and diversity of brokers or boundary crossers:** these are people or organisations that can operationalise bridging and linking networks, e.g. social enterprise leaders on Boards.

**Social enterprise leaders** *who understand the regional city*, its needs, place-based resources, future plans and vision, and have expertise in navigating public and commercial processes and advocacy.

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#### Social enterprise economic position

Is the social enterprise **acting, and being perceived by other key stakeholders, as part of the mainstream local economy** while attending to their social mission (dual social and economic mission).

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#### Working in partnership

Does the social enterprise have the **confidence** of community members, leaders and organisations; and **skills in working together in partnership with these stakeholders**?

To what extent does the social enterprise understand itself to be embedded in relationships of **trust with the local community and organisations**?

In relation to the regional city, is there a sense of a **norm of social inclusion; reciprocity** and a **shared vision for the city's future**?

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