



# WHY BE PREPARED TO PARTY?

## Meet. Greet. Connect.

Prepared to Party is an idea created by a small group of locals keen to help bring back old-fashioned street parties. It's a way to support Eden and surrounding localities to be better connected and safer. This guide has been put together to help anyone wanting to create their own street party.

After the 2019-2020 bushfires, many people began to realise our community was becoming disconnected and we didn't always know our neighbours. The purpose of Prepared to Party (P2P) is to create small local communities (one or more street) of neighbours who can easily communicate and look out for one another. Coming together to share food and to chat is an easy way to get to know one another and to feel safer.

## Feeling safe is so important

Feeling safe means feeling you are free from physical or mental harm. All P2P get-togethers are about being in a safe space. We're keen for people to come together, to speak freely and openly about happenings in the community and about how they can support one another through future emergencies and risks.

## Information

P2P events are great places to share information that may help others be better prepared for the future.

## Getting our faces out of our devices

P2P is about getting people together, face to face. It's about more in-person connection and less digital connection. So much can be achieved when we meet and talk.

## Bigger isn't better

Your street party can be any size but a smallish group of around 10 to 12 people works well and allows everyone to connect. You might start off smaller than that and grow as the word gets out.

## Being united

This is about building communities of care. Coming together through a street party is an easy way to start regular communication with one another. It's about caring, sharing, and making a difference, at any time but especially in times of need. It's about following the age-old saying "United we stand, Divided we fall".

## Need help?

Contact Eden Community Access Centre 02 6496 3970 and our friendly volunteers will suggest a suitable contact person to help out.





# HOW TO BE PREPARED TO PARTY

## What you need

Someone to get the party started!

That's probably you! To start with, or you and another keen neighbour. Have a chat to people you know in your street and build a small team to help you out.

### Location

Choose a public space that is safe. It should have accessible shelter, toilets, a table and seating. A BBQ is also great! Consider the needs of people with disabilities. The idea is for people to be comfortable and to linger and chat.

### Invitations

We've found with our trial street parties that two letterbox invitation drops work well. The first invitation about a week or 10 days before the event. Explain why the party is being held, where and when. The second invitation is a reminder a couple of days before the event. A nice way to manage the second invite is to door knock and chat with the resident. Get comfortable talking to your neighbours; they don't (always) bite!

### OK! The day is here

Be prepared and get there early to welcome people as they arrive. Help people to feel comfortable and to want to stay and linger longer. Circulate and mingle. The idea is for people to feel they want to do this again; that it was enjoyable and safe.

### Phew!

Now that you've got your first party done, think ahead to the next one. You may need to do some work to get regular parties happening and then, experience tells us, they will take on a life of their own.

Be the person that starts this, so your community can come together and feel better prepared and safer in tough times.

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