

## **Success in Social Innovation in South Australia – What has happened? What has worked?**

**Mark Henley**

Manager Advocacy and Communications

Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide

South Australia has a well-established track record in developing innovative service responses to social problems and emerging concerns. This paper will summarise a selection of these social innovations, with particular (but not exclusive) reference to responses to the needs of young people – an area where innovation has been particularly strong. A broad historical oversight will be presented covering a period of 80 years, from the 'Great Depression' to the present day. Services mentioned will be from both government and community based hosts. Innovative services discussed will include: The Kupto Colony, SA Housing Trust, the Service to Youth Council streetwork program, Lifeline, Community Improvement Through Youth (CITY), Housing Cooperatives and 'the Arts'. The current situation for these services and the organisations behind them and the paths they have followed, from innovation to now, will be described.

Consideration will then be given to the factors contributing to successful social initiative development and sustainability. Particular emphasis will be given to processes of collaboration between community based organisations, government and business and to key people who have been social innovators in South Australia