

# What Is Most Important?

## *Card Sort exercise*



### **Context:**

The 2016 HDPa committee and past executive members met for the first stage in Design Thinking process. One of the exercises was a card sorting exercise where small groups (3-4 people) were given the same set of cards. Each card had a different 'function' or 'purpose' of a community association such as the HDPa. Groups had to discuss and move the cards around and sort them according to what they considered to be most to least important. The outcomes were shared with the whole group and key points are summarised as follows. Takeaway messages or conclusions for the exercise are highlighted in **bold**.

### **Outcomes:**

The exercise created significant conversation with people reporting statements like “*I hadn't considered that the Association could have a role in political representation*” and “*it's amazing how shuffling a few cards around helps you have a conversation and order your thinking on a subject*”.

The three groups provided individual justifications and different responses to the exercise, including choosing to prioritise cards at similar levels, rather than deeming one more important than another. **This speaks to the multiple and concurrent roles of a community association such as the HDPa.** It was also interesting to observe one group arranging the cards in more of a relational pattern than one of pure priority. **This examples considers the way that the different activities of the progress association are related and are potentially difficult to prioritise one over the other.**

It is interesting to note that two groups rated 'socialisation' as the highest priority for the community association. Comments such as, “*If you get socialisation, everything else comes from that*”, stand out. The third group put local representation/political voice at the

highest. Groups also identified the need for other purposes of the a community association to be emphasised, such as importance of communication with the public. **The addition of other priorities of the HPDA brings into focus what other things the community and membership may have to say about the role the Association plays.**

Another group debated the importance of the physical space that the association maintains. They discussed whether we need to maintain a physical site and if we do, whether the current school is the most suitable site. This comment leads to more critical questions of whether the traditional view of the HDPA being associated with a site such as the Hartley School is still current or necessary. **It speaks to more progressive views of the future of the association that can hopefully surface through this process.**



### ***Future Steps:***

This exercise could easily be repeated with other groups or individuals who we come into conversation with through this process. It could be translated to the Election Day event with similar cards, and opportunities for people to sort them into priorities, and the HPDA can record the responses in photos or some other means.

The card sort exercise could also relate to a survey of the Hartley community, to get their response on what they consider to be the most important. As raised, it would also be interesting to compare our results to contemporary literature on the subject of the function and purpose of community associations.