Community Development is an approach to working with groups that sets out to assist them to bring about social change to improve quality of life. Community Development professionals have the potential to have impact through:

- offering groups skills, new ways of doing things and a process for working together to achieve healthy social outcomes
- the creation and fostering of partnerships between community groups, government authorities, the not-for-profit sector and private businesses to facilitate adequate resourcing and support;
- the development, implementation and evaluation of community engagement strategies and;
- influencing social policy.

Graduates with a Bachelor of Community Development qualification have an opportunity to make a real difference to people’s lives, working in areas such as:

- youth work;
- international aid work;
- helping the homeless with housing support and employment;
- disability support work;
- local government community service and planning;
- working to improve inequality issues faced by Indigenous or non-English speaking community groups;
- engaging struggling families with health and welfare support services;
- creative arts and development.

Engage in your career before you graduate

Engaging in your career as a student is a good way to develop your industry networks, explore areas of interest and set yourself apart.

Ways you can show future employers your strengths and active contributions as a student include:

- Undertaking Work Integrated Learning Opportunities (WIL) or in-curriculum industry exposure as part of your degree.
- Seeking out Internships offered by industry e.g. Aurora Social Sciences Internships.
- Engaging in co-curricular mentoring or leadership programs (e.g. The Aust. Indigenous Mentoring Experience AIME or the Murdoch Student Emerging Leaders program MSEL).
- Joining relevant industry or community action/consultation groups.
- Entering student team competitions that focus on evidencing key employability skills such as creative problem solving and team skills (e.g. the Big Issue, Big Idea inter-university team competition).
- Considering a studying abroad experience – short and longer term study commitments overseas is well regarded by employers and recognised for further enhancing your employability by developing and evidencing your resilience, initiative, adaptability, communication skills and intercultural awareness.
- Creating a LinkedIn profile and follow relevant industry organisations / joining relevant groups.
- Seeking complimentary part-time/casual work or volunteering in areas involving social justice issues, multiculturalism or community. The Murdoch Volunteering Hub (situated next to the Guild Shop on Bush Court) is a useful resource for ideas on where to gain experience.

Email: volunteering@the-guild.com.au or phone: 08 9360 6307.

- Join a relevant student club/association at Murdoch. If there isn’t one, create one! Murdoch Student Guild can help with this. They even provide training.
Careers and industries in Community Development

Identifying and promoting your strengths, being curious and open to opportunity, accepting an element of risk as well as remaining both positive and persistent in your job search can open doors. Community Development graduates have previously secured work with State Government Departments, Local Councils/Shires, Migrant Resource Centres, Womens’ Centres and other not-for-profits / NGO’s. Below is a list of job titles that graduates with a Community Development major, including those from Murdoch, have secured or progressed onto.

- Community Development/Engagement Officer Youth
- Development Officer/Youth Worker/Youth Activity Officer/Indigenous Youth Support Officer
- Regional Development Coordinator
- Disability Services Special Projects Officer
- Ethnic Liaison Officer
- Community Employment Programs Co-ordinator
- Volunteer Mentor Co-ordinator
- Social Enterprise Development Co-ordinator
- Coordinator of Social Planning and Wellbeing
- Community Group Work Facilitator
- Youth Custodial Officer/Youth Justice Officer (Correctional Services)
- Field Project Officer (NGO)
- Social Policy Officer (NGO, State and Commonwealth)
- Family Centre / Neighbourhood Centre Coordinator
- Housing Officer / Tenancy Compliance Officer (Public Housing)
- Community Policy and Project / Research Officer (State Government)
- Community Relations Officer (Industry)
- Multicultural Affairs Advisor
- Indigenous Affairs Officer

Remember that careers are dynamic – they evolve along with your life experiences and you have the ability to make yours meaningful through active engagement in the world around you. This can include purposeful industry-based experience, networking initiatives and stepping up to opportunity.

Useful Links:
Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk/community_development_worker_job_description.htm

Useful Job Sites
State Government: www.jobs.wa.gov.au
Local Government: www.lgjobs.gov.au

Keep up to date, like us on Facebook.
Murdoch Careers and Employment Centre.