

# Building friendships and connections in everyday community life!

**BELONGING  
MATTERS** INC

A rare opportunity to learn from Dr Angela Amado from Minnesota

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June | 9.30am – 4.00pm**

**Box Hill Town Hall – Whitehorse Room**

1022 Whitehorse Road Box Hill, Victoria 3128



## What is this workshop about?

For people with developmental disabilities, the greatest safeguard isn't a policy or a program - it's a person who loves them. While social connection is vital for happiness, it serves an even deeper purpose—an informal safeguard. When people have deep roots in their community, they have a network of people who notice when they are missing, celebrate their presence, and instinctively advocate for their well-being.

This session focuses on how we can move beyond mere "community presence" to foster authentic, reciprocal friendships. We will explore how a person's unique gifts and valuable contributions can be the bridge to relationships that shift from simple connection to a natural safeguard for the future—including for those with significant support needs.

Join us to learn how to build a community that doesn't just "include" your loved ones, but actively looks out for them. Drawing on stories and proven strategies from agency and family projects, Angela will highlight the vital role we play in making these lasting friendships possible. This session covers basic approaches, specific strategies, and exercises designed to give you the tools to ensure that everyone—regardless of the level of their disability—is seen, known, and loved by their community.

## Who is this event for?

This event is for anyone who believes that a good life is built on relationships—people with disabilities, families, advocates, teachers, support workers, support coordinators, case managers, service providers, students and academics.

## About the Presenter





### Dr Angela Amado


With over 40 years of experience—ranging from international consulting to national research—Dr Angela Amado is a global leader in fostering inclusive communities. As Executive Director of the Human Services Research and Development Center in Minnesota, she has spent decades developing strategies that bridge the gap between people with disabilities and their neighbours.

Acclaimed author of several books about community connection and friendship, Dr Amado has trained people across five continents. This is a rare opportunity to learn directly from one of the field's most respected voices in the area of friendship and connection.

## Event details

 <b>Venue</b>	<b>Box Hill Town Hall - Whitehorse Room</b> (in person) 1022 Whitehorse Road Box Hill, Victoria 3128
 <b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, 30 June 2026</b>
 <b>Time</b>	<b>9.30 am—4 pm AEST</b>

## Ticket Information

 <b>Ticket cost</b>	<p>Ticket pricing starts at AUD \$20.</p> <p>For people with disabilities and their families who find the ticket price a barrier at this time, please email: <a href="mailto:info@belongingmatters.org">info@belongingmatters.org</a></p> <p>Registrations are only available online. Please read our <a href="#">ticket terms and conditions and refund policy</a> before booking your ticket.</p> <p><b>Registrations close on Wednesday 24th June.</b></p>
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## Accessibility

We aim to ensure that people have equal access to our events. If you need alternative formats or other reasonable adjustments at this event, please provide details when you register your booking online.

For further information please phone [03 9739 8333](tel:0397398333) or email [info@belongingmatters.org](mailto:info@belongingmatters.org)

**BOOK NOW!**