Partners in Grain: Building women’s capacity for farm and rural resilience

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History

- 2000 Meeting to explore national project idea
- 2001 Partners in Grain was launched
- 2009 Became Incorporated body
- Project funded by national industry body (GRDC)
- Providing training to grain growers
Structure

• National and State Reference Groups
• Each state has autonomy in operation
• Reference groups are volunteers and mainly women
• Each State has a part time Coordinator
• SA has a focus on women, with continuous group
What PinG does in SA

• 17 learning groups across South Australia
• Driven by a local group coordinator (volunteer)
• Group coordinator given training and support
• Group drives capacity building agenda
• Group dynamic provides support to members
How do we do it?

• Group Ownership
• Direct health topics
• Benefits in times of stress (families and business)
• Social cohesion
• Individual health, family health, community health
• Helping women (young) find niche role in business
How we do what we do:
What makes PinG - SA unique?

• Leadership pathway – practice ground
• Funding model (business/ government/ industry)
• Run by women that have been there
• Volunteer group coordinators
• Training outcomes in a FUN way
• Need to consider local logistics
Local Logistics

• During school term time
• During school hours, 9am and 3pm
• On days when daycare operates in the town
• Close to school
• Not during peak work time of farm
• On a day when women aren’t working
• Some women need to be invited
• Lunch is important
Benefits of the groups

– Ongoing learning in a supportive environment

– Women can share common issues

– Focal point for women in isolated communities

– Pseudos of belong to PinG
Lessons Learned:

1. Group ownership

3. Capacity development methods
   - Immediate and direct (women and families)
   - Community level / other women (talking over the back fence)
   - Contribution to formal structures (industry)

4. All about people and relationships
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