Project Management: Australian Drug Foundation

The Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) is a not-for-profit organisation that focuses on harm minimisation of alcohol and drugs in the community through prevention. In 2014, they came to us for help in transforming their operations.

The opportunity

Make life easier. That was the remit for the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)'s Project Jigsaw team. Tasked with streamlining the ADF’s internal processes to make the organisation efficient, Project Jigsaw needed exceptional project management support and advice. NAB skilled volunteers Tanvi Majmudar and Kevin Bishop were ready and willing.

Help from NAB

Tanvi Majmudar, NAB Technology Project Manager, loves to volunteer. “It broadens my horizons and keeps me learning,” she says. Initially ADF requested a Project Manager from NAB, so Tanvi registered for this job through the NAB Volunteer Planner.

Tanvi already had a mentoring relationship with Geoff Milner, ADF’s IT Project Manager. Together they discussed ideas to help Geoff set up the right project governance structures and plan Project Jigsaw’s complex implementation phase. “ADF lacked experience with change management, and supporting staff through this transition was vital to ensure success of the technical project,” says Geoff.

Tanvi knew ADF’s People and Culture team needed help so she introduced them to her colleague Kevin Bishop, an experienced NAB Program Change Manager. Kevin delivered a two-day “strategic storytelling” workshop for ADF’s Executive team to help them lead and communicate a major organisational change. “I also used this as a learning opportunity for my own team within NAB, bringing a couple of my employees along to help prepare the workshop and observe on the day,” he says.

NAB Skilled Volunteering

In Australia, every one of our 26,500 employees receives a minimum of two days each year to volunteer their time and talents to build prosperous communities.

As a leader in corporate volunteering in Australia we’ve delivered 1 million volunteering hours, and will generate $50 million in value to communities by 2015.

Our skilled volunteers can provide invaluable assistance to build further capacity in your organisation and deliver critical work in the community. We work to match the skills, talents and capability of our people to community organisations where these skills are needed most.
A win-win for everyone

Project Jigsaw is now kicking off its 18-month implementation phase with a strong project governance structure and plan in place. The project has created shared benefits and outcomes for ADF and NAB.

Tanvi Majmudar: “I have been able to help Geoff with the project management aspects, but also provided access to other resources in NAB. It’s not just an IT project; when you change systems people have to be brought along with it. Working with ADF has benefited me enormously, because it’s given me insights I would never otherwise have. Non-profits have so many constraints that we don’t have in the corporate world. It’s not easy for non-profits, but being more frugal helps bring about new ideas, and we can learn from that.”

Tegan McPherson: “We’ve been working with Kevin to audit all the skills needed during the implementation phase of the project, and he is helping us source the right NAB skilled volunteers as we need them. Without NAB skilled volunteers I would have been flying by the seat of my pants, because we wouldn’t have had the budget to pay for this kind of change management assistance. And even if we could afford to pay for it, we wouldn’t have had the chance to learn as much. NAB’s skilled volunteers haven’t just come in and done it for me, I’ve been able to work with them and throw in my thoughts, hear their suggestions, and build my own capabilities.”

Geoff Milner: “It’s been great to have Tanvi there as a sounding board to talk through ideas. I’ve learned so many new ways of applying project management principles. Without Tanvi’s advice and mentoring, this project would have been really high risk. Having the right project management and governance structures in place has opened our eyes to the importance of the project and the very real impact of the risks, so we can avoid big problems down the track.”

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