

Transformation and Relationship Building via a Community Basic Income Trial in North–West Tasmania

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Dr Robin Krabbe

Coordinator, Live Well Tasmania & Independent Researcher



Summary

- The problem: how do we optimise collective action?
 - Sustainable care – meeting basic material and non-material needs with the lowest ecological footprint
- Theory of Change
- Why a CBI
- Why not a UBI
- Live Well Campaign

The short term problems

- Un and under-employment
- Inter-generational poverty & rising costs of living
- A non-fit for purpose welfare system
- The lack of work that could be happening in our communities to improve life for everyone eg addressing the 'care crisis' in elderly care, childcare, environmental work etc etc, lack of volunteers
- ⑨ Lack of equity, need to break cycle of disadvantage

Need for longer term socio-ecological regeneration/ transformation

- Interdependence ie a communally structures society based on relational health is key to survival & thriving vs. egocentrism
- Interdependence/social dilemma, collective action problem etc
- Satisfy basic human material and non-material needs with a low ecological footprint
- Sustainable well-being – the synergies of care of people, care of planet, and self-transcendence
- Success is likely among groups that are particularly able to manifest the social suite
- Cultural conditioning of individualism, relational ambivalence, reactance

Cultural conditioning & the push towards transformation

- “the tendency to be altruistic or exploitive may depend heavily on how the social world is organised. So if we took the same population of people and assign them to one social world, we could make them really generous to one another, and if we put them in another sort of world we could make them really mean or indifferent to one another”
- Unemployment, automation, poverty, increasing precarity
- Reduced human potential, psychological immaturity
- le reduced capacity to contribute beyond one’s own survival & thriving needs
- Normalised & pervasive – 90%?
- Inaction on climate change
- Polarisation

Theory of change

- Improving social relationships, ie building the social suite is key to positive change
- Lack of understanding of people with different opinions from us is a major barrier to positive change
- Building trust via increasing connections between people mobilises significant resources for the benefit of both individual health and wellbeing, and the health of institutions/collective organisations
- Relationships of goodwill
 - a basic need
 - are responsible for the formation of brains with capacity for self-transcendence
 - distributed cognition, division of labour
 - deliberative democracy

Theory of socio-ecological degeneration and regeneration

- Degeneration of the social suite, capitalist conditioning
 - love within families
 - friendship
 - social networks
 - Cooperation, trust
 - relative egalitarianism
 - social learning and teaching
- Regeneration requires rebuilding the social suite
 - Community projects via a CBI

The pull towards transformation

- Socio-ecological regeneration
 - Eg work as play, deliberative democracy, radical inclusion
 - Satisfying basic needs – material, purpose & meaning, meaningful social relationships
 - Psychological maturity (Cloninger)– self-directedness, self-transcendence, cooperativeness
 - Community is a process of being with others, the joy of community projects, positivity resonance, collective effervescence
 - Interstitial and symbiotic transformation
- ⑨ creates energy vs often disabling messaging of push factors

Transformed work society vs post-work society

- the widespread opinions about the motivation to work, it is obvious ..are based on an alienated conception of work. Laziness is not the natural state of the person, but a reaction to the alienating conditions of life and work (Fromm 1955: 290)
- Work as:
 - Play
 - Purposeful activity
 - Civic participation: engagement in social and political activities that benefit others
 - Justice and inclusion for the disabled: establishing or maintaining value relationships ...based on respect, companionship, and friendship

Terminology

- All aim to pay a liveable income
- Universal Basic Income – unconditional
- Participation Income – conditional
- Community Basic Income – conditional
 - ‘by the community for the community’
 - recognises trauma and early stress affects ability to ‘build a life’
 - the process of conditionality adds to community capacity building
- A CBI greatest capacity to address unemployment, poverty, a dysfunctional welfare system and create much needed community social, economic and environmental projects

Why a CBI versus a UBI?

- Political feasibility
- A UBI underestimates capitalist conditioning
- In principle, people are intrinsically motivated to be active, but industrial work and paid labour require additional extrinsic motivation
- Focuses on external freedom versus inner freedom
- Assumes efforts will occur eg towards social reproduction whose production and allocation require complex coordination
- Community controlled conditionality is vastly different to capitalist conditionality

The Innovation Ambition Continuum

	Incremental Innovation	Reform-Oriented Innovation	Transformative Innovation
Type of Change	To improve the performance of existing systems	To change systems to address significant shortcomings	To build entirely new systems based on radically different worldviews, values and narratives
Impact: The extent to which an innovation can make a positive difference on a complex societal challenge.	Predictable, typically modest	Less predictable, typically significant	Even less predictable, possibly game-changing
Feasibility: The extent to which an innovation can be implemented with the existing capabilities in a system and/or requires the development of new ones.	High	Medium	Low
Viability: The extent to which an innovation can be supported by the larger systems of institutions, policies and power structures.	Higher	Mixed	Low
Risk: The extent to which an innovation is likely to experience implementation failure and/or generate unintended and/or negative consequences.	Lower	Mixed	Higher
Resistance: The extent to which system actors and broader society are likely to embrace or resist an innovation.	Lower	Medium	Higher

UBI =
transformative,
but:
low feasibility,
low viability
high risk
,high resistance

Community Basic Income (CBI), a variation of Participation Income

- To replace our current dysfunctional welfare system, aims to eliminate unemployment, eliminate poverty and build psycho-social capacity as the basis for transforming political-economic systems towards sustainability
- Participants are paid a basic income and in return agree to support the health and wellbeing of themselves and their local community, and directly or indirectly community action
- Co-designed by the community
- Parallel processes:
 - crowd funded CBI
 - campaign for Federal government funded trial – comparing conditional & unconditional income

Eligibility for CBI

- Training and education
 - Short courses, online and/or face to face
 - mentors, other provision of psychosocial support
 - apprenticeships
- Tailored for capacities
 - Dog walking
 - Knitting beanies, blankets for the homeless
 - Playing board games – children, elderly
- Community projects
- No-one would be denied a Basic Income

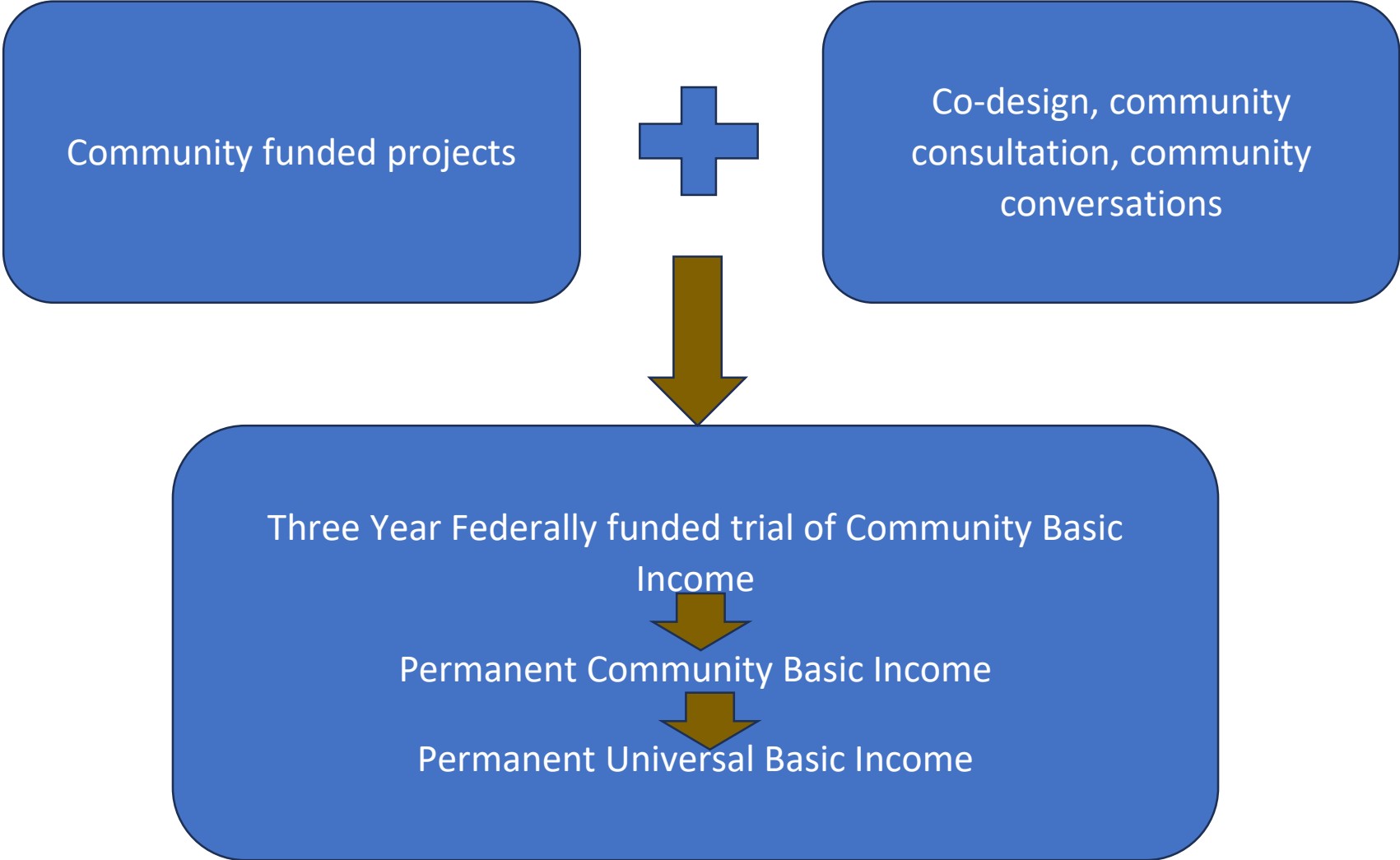
Examples of CBI community projects

- Food Security projects – ensuring everyone has access to healthy, nutritious food, grown in environmentally ways, and capitalising on the power of food for greater social connection and inclusion
- Helping kids get a better start in life, help them be lifelong learners, help families raise healthy kids
- Environmental regeneration – creation of habitat for wildlife, reducing waste, increasing biodiversity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions (in fact there is an enormous range of things communities can do to take action on climate change)
- Easing the housing crisis – connecting up and actively supporting house sharing such as between retiree's and students, promoting tiny houses

Two potential processes

- Campaign for a three year Federally funded trial
 - Replace Jobseeker
 - Three trial sites eg Waratah-Wynyard, Central Coast, Burnie or Circular Head, 1000 participants each
 - Supportive feedback politicians
 - Cost: \$20 mill. per year
- Community funded project
 - Donations, crowd funding, philanthropy
 - \$100,000 or \$300,000

Pathway to an Unconditional Basic Income



Some ideas re Community funded projects

Database of community projects and priorities: what is important to our community?

Trial of 10 people receiving the income – proof of concept
-cost \$290,000

Train six Community Connectors & employ for 15 months
\$100,00

Thank-you for listening!

- Contact Robin
- rkrabbe@westnet.com.au
- 0421 461 724



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