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Search conferences as a tool for participatory and empowerment evaluation

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Search Conferences were devised and written about in Australia during the 1980s. They involve a wide range of stakeholders working in a retreat-like atmosphere to produce strategies and solutions in order to produce solutions and improvements. Strangely, the technique became more popular overseas but has returned to be used successfully in this country. This paper will outline: the various types of search conference the procedures for running such an activity; how they have been used generally; and how they have been applied recently to problems such as homelessness and community development in Victoria.