**Gather - GovHack Script**

We’re team Hunter-Gatherers, from Launceston, and we’re here to tell you about our local social connection app promoting wellbeing, **Gather**.

We know Australians are feeling less connected than ever, and that this impacts on both their mental health and civic participation. Around the country many governments would like to see greater engagement and stronger communities, with flow on effects for participation in democracy and volunteering.

**Gather** is an app and website platform with dual functionality. It connects users to a range of community events and tracks social connection wellbeing measures associated with increased participation. The individual users receive feedback on their developing sense of belonging, and local governments and community groups receive aggregated data on community wellbeing and community engagement over time.

**Gather was developed using the**  **ACT Government’s Wellbeing Framework** our team focused on the **social connection** domain. It takes baseline measurements of connectedness through a series of start-up questions, modelled on the indicators in the ACT’s Living Well survey. It then profiles the user’s interests and availability, matching them with local community events,

Local databases around accessibility, government and community events are scraped in order to fill the events list of the app, with local community groups invited by the local government to add their events.

After attending events, the user is prompted to answer a few questions about their sense of connectedness at the event. This data is then available to event organisers and local governments to identify events that have provided a good sense of wellbeing.

It also encourages users to reflect on how their sense of connectedness has grown over time, via a visual “connect” indicator, baseline questions are revisited every few months to track changes.

**Gather encourages** civic participation by inviting users to attend and contribute to community discussions, engage with digital and physical civic infrastructure, increase social connectedness, and improve their sense of wellbeing and belonging in the community.