



BEYOND THE BELL

Strategic Plan

(Theory of Change)

2024 - 2028

Our Reach



- Glenelg Shire
- Southern Grampians Shire
- Moyne Shire
- Warrnambool City
- Corangamite Shire

OUR VISION

All children and young people are connected to education and engaged in their learning

OUR GOAL

To improve educational outcomes for children and young people in South West Victoria

OUR PILLARS



Social and Emotional Wellbeing

- Children and young people feel safe and supported within their learning environment
- Children, young people and families have improved opportunities to access resources and initiatives that support social and emotional wellbeing to engage with learning and education



Disadvantaged Children and Young People

- The needs of vulnerable families are understood and responded to
- The needs of vulnerable students are met within the school setting to better prepare students for their educational journey
- The needs of vulnerable young people transitioning from school to future pathways are understood and responded to



Engagement with Learning

- Children, young people and families are assisted and informed through critical transition stages of learning
- More young people are connected to and engage in learning for a longer period of time
- Future pathways and career aspirations are supported through greater awareness of education and training options

OUR APPROACH

Beyond the Bell is a collective impact initiative, responding to place-based problems through place-based interventions.

We adopt a collaborative approach to facilitate community driven initiatives.

Our Work is:

- Focused on emerging areas of greatest need
- Informed by research and regional data
- Co-designed and place-based
- Embeds youth voice
- Adaptive and innovative in responding to local issues
- Measured and impact reviewed



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(Implementation)

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COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Collective impact is based on the premise that existing approaches to creating social impact are ineffective for solving complex social issues and a different approach is needed when addressing complexity.

Collective impact aims for transformational change. This is based on the premise that complex problems require a radical shift in the way they are solved, and the solutions themselves will both require and cause significant systemic changes.

Smart, J., "Collective Impact: Evidence and Implications for Practice." The Australian Government, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Child Family Community Australia | Information Exchange CFCA PAPER NO. 45, (2017).

OUR COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

Five conditions of collective impact

- **A common agenda:** all stakeholders hold a shared vision and goal that incorporates a joint understanding of the social issue that they are trying to affect
- **Continuous communication:** open and honest communication between high-level leaders and regular meetings with stakeholder groups.
- **Backbone support organisation:** backbone support organisations have six essential functions: overseeing strategic direction; facilitating stakeholder communication; monitoring data collection and analysis; managing funding; coordinating community outreach; and communications.
- **Mutually reinforcing activities:** stakeholders' actions are coordinated and although different, these actions should all contribute to the same goal, and should complement each other never duplicate or compete.
- **Shared measurement:** a single set of shared indicators are used to measure progress. Data collected is used to refine strategies based on their results. The backbone support organisation plays a key role in enabling shared measurement, potentially training, facilitating, collating or reviewing data or data collection methods.



OUR WAY OF WORKING

*Beyond the Bell holds the position of the **backbone support organisation** within the Collective Impact model. The backbone is a critical component of a collective impact effort. The backbone mobilises, coordinates and facilitates the process of collective impact by; guiding vision and strategy, supporting aligned activities, establishing shared measurement systems, building public will and activates funding to support the initiative.*

As a backbone we:

- Co-design and pilot new innovative initiatives targeting emerging areas of concern in the south west region
- Support and enable initiatives to continue to deliver quality interventions that are specific to the cohort they assist
- Build and assist collaborative partnerships between initiatives and organisations that provide supports for children, young people and families to improve school attendance and engagement
- Lead innovative research into school and learning engagement, retention and attainment across the south west region
- Promote youth voice to be embedded in responding to issues that affect young people in education, learning and future pathways
- Convene professional forums to investigate, dissect and disseminate information about current issues and problems impacting local education and learning outcomes



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Measurement, Evaluation and Learning

OUR IMPACT MEASURES

Short Term

Short-term measures are focused on project success:

- Projects and initiatives piloted and implemented by Beyond the Bell are successful in achieving the outputs and outcomes that they set out to achieve.
- Short-term outcomes of a project will have long-term impacts for education and future pathways to enable an approach to create systemic change.

Medium Term

Medium-term measures are focused on community systems change:

- Instances of impact for young people and families are being observed.
- Successful piloted projects become sustainable and embedded practices.
- How the community collaborates and leads action is changing at a systemic level (e.g. better flows of money and resources, improved policies and practices).
- Action is beginning to make systemic ripples beyond place (e.g. policy influence)

Long Term

Long-term measures are focused on local population impact:

- Sustainable positive outcomes are being observed in the community, showing an improvement in engagement in learning and learning outcomes for young people in the community
- Government begins to focus on supporting initiatives, rather than shaping them.

MEASUREMENT OF IMPACT

Beyond the Bell implements a triangulation approach to measure the medium and long term impact in relation to our Vision and Goal. This approach is structured on input from:

- Youth Voice: Through consultation with the MAD SW Crew, surveying and interviewing initiative participants, and the Youth Conversations Research report
- Community Observations: Feedback and commentary on changes and shifts in focus areas from professionals, schools, participants, and wider community
- Data & Statistics: Collected and collated from various reputable sources including; ABS, AEDC, DE, SEIFA, On Track, SSCAI, and NCVER

This ensures a comprehensive view of the medium and long term impact of the initiatives and work of Beyond the Bell and it's partnering organisations. This information is used in a Triple Loop Learning framework to focus and develop the direction of work to be responsive to emerging issues.

