



Local Government  
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AUSTRALIA SA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALIA, SA

22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
LEADERSHIP  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND  
COLLABORATION FINALISTS

# 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## Award Finalists

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

#### THANKS TO



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#### THANKS TO



#### **City of Holdfast Bay Community Safety Team - Supporting Vulnerable People Initiative**

The root cause of homelessness is a catastrophic loss of family and community. The consequences of this loss are far reaching for individuals and often create a level of disconnection that even experienced service providers find difficult to bridge.

In fulfilling their roles, the City of Holdfast Bay Community Safety Team determined that by positively engaging with rough sleepers through a dedication to making genuine, human connections with them, the team could become a conduit for connecting people with services.

Instead of approaching rough sleeping as an enforcement issue, the Community Safety Team have instead undertaken it as a community inclusion issue, getting to know rough sleepers in the area by introducing themselves and routinely checking in during their regular patrols.

Through human interaction, check-ins and mapping the sleeping places of individuals who the Community Safety Team know by name and face, they can collaborate with the Toward Home Wellbeing Team from Sonder, and SAPOL where required, to support this often-marginalised community group. Approaching rough sleepers as human beings, equal and worthy of inclusion has enabled genuine connections to be made and valuable trust has been built to enable service providers and SAPOL to effectively engage and support those experiencing homelessness in our community.

There have been many demonstrated successes including local traders feeling a greater sense of community safety, long term homing of rough sleepers, successful rehab engagements, a plethora of health services provided, a higher number of rough sleepers accepting services and a reduction in escalating behaviours requiring SAPOL intervention.

What started as small acts of kindness has become a mindset to truly live 'inclusion'.

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#### **City of Marion Projects and Partnerships Team - Early Years Collective Impact Initiative**

The simple act of bringing people together has the power to make great change. In the case of the City of Marion Early Years Collective Impact Initiative, 25 local and state community service organisations share a collective focus to decrease child vulnerability and have successfully moved the population level Australian Early Development Census data against the Australian trend.

What began as the Mitchell Park Collective Impact four years ago has emerged over the past 18 months to cover the whole council area. The approach is simple and able to be replicated. It brings like-minded community services together under a common vision, encourages collaboration and innovation, listens to the voices of all stakeholders, embeds sustainability practices from an evidence base and highlights the importance of always remaining curious.

Collaborative initiatives and partnerships allow the actions of the Marion Early Years Collective Impact to flourish. Initiatives collectively trialled included:

- Embedding Little Libraries into Open Space planning of targeted areas of lower literacy
- Planting of nature play space and nature play events with story times, books, and information giveaways
- Establishment of a collaborative Playgroup between two kindergartens and a Neighbourhood Centre
- Fundamental movement skills programs targeting specific geographical areas

The City of Marion Early Years Collective Impact recently celebrated population level shifts in data - with the Collective meeting its ambitious target of decreasing child vulnerability in the suburbs of Mitchell Park and surrounds, with a 12% decrease in vulnerability, moving below both the South Australian and Australian average, a statistically significant result.

Investing in the early years is a socially and economically worthy investment and local government is well placed as the backbone organisation. With a resourcing allocation of 0.5FTE and \$5,000 annually, this initiative demonstrates the incredible power of bringing people together.

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#### **Port Augusta City Council Outreach Team - City Outreach Project**

Port Augusta is a resilient, family orientated community of approximately 14,000 people. Its community is multicultural, with 21.7% identifying as First Nations, from 38 different language groups. Port Augusta is a low socioeconomic community, which is impacted by anti-social behaviour, lower levels of numeracy and literacy, significant drug and alcohol issues, homelessness and high unemployment.

Port Augusta City Outreach is a multi-agency wrap-around approach involving Port Augusta City Council, DHS, SAPOL, SA Health, Housing SA, NIAA and others, to address the issues affecting the liveability and safety of the community. Through collaboration, City Outreach has implemented drug and alcohol support programs, outreach services supporting AOD affected people and initiatives to decrease homelessness. The project has also delivered crime prevention awareness and support and identified causation factors that require short- and longer-term controls.

Thanks to the Outreach Project, more than 200 people have been supported to Return to Country, more than 1,200 have received outreach and sobering up unit support, crime rates have reduced, significant improvements in housing and health outcomes have been achieved and community liveability has improved.

This multi-disciplinary wrap-around approach and resulting improvement in outcomes will continue as stakeholders work together, guided by an overarching leadership team made up of multiple agencies and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members, to achieve improved safety and liveability outcomes.

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