



YOUNG CHILDREN ARE NATURALLY CREATIVE, CURIOUS AND OPEN TO NEW THINGS.

They experiment together with no concept of the impossible. They are constant innovators. If we approach early childhood issues in the same way, we can solve the problems that prevent many kids from thriving.



OPPORTUNITY
CHILD



ONE IN FIVE

That's how many Australian children are considered developmentally vulnerable. This means they're missing out on some of the things they need early in their lives.

THRIVING CHILDREN

Kids who thrive have all the **material basics** they need. They are **loved and safe, healthy, learning** and actively **participating** in a community filled with aspiration and hope, where they are deeply valued and their voices are heard. These children and their families also have access to positive, supportive **systems and environments**.



Missing out means some kids experience health, learning and developmental delays which will have a serious impact on their lives as they grow up.

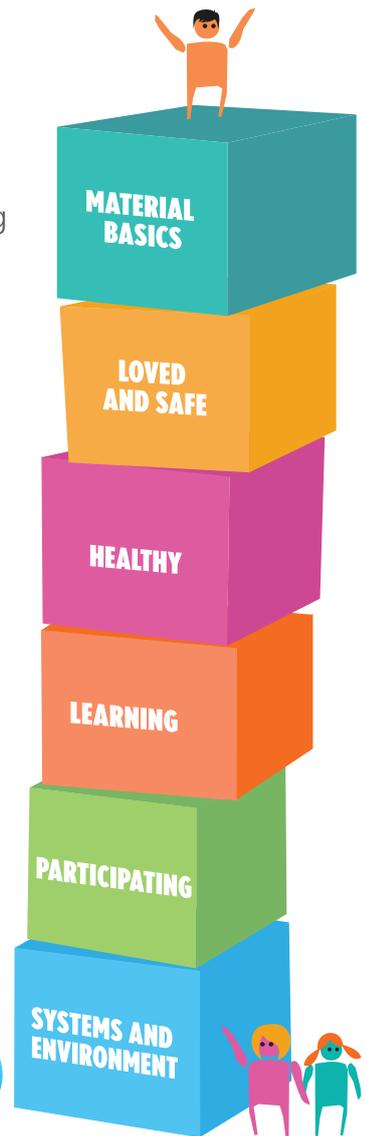


If we can enable these kids to thrive, they'll grow into thriving adults. That's the best and simplest way to disrupt the cycle of social issues that affect all Australians.



The problems may be big and complicated, but we don't accept that they are impossible. We just can't solve them working on our own.

the nest
A national plan for child and youth wellbeing



OUR PURPOSE



We want to change the sense of what's possible, to deliver the vision that all of us have of Australia – as a country where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

OUR SHARED GOAL IS TO DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE THE LIVES OF

65,000

VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA

How did we arrive at this number? According to the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), 65,000 five year olds start school each year in Australia with big challenges in learning and in life. This is not acceptable. Our bold goal is to dramatically change this - because every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.

WHO WE ARE

Opportunity Child is a collective of leading communities and national organisations, working together to change the system that impacts kids.

We are ready to disrupt the status quo, aligning our individual efforts to achieve shared outcomes – creating a bigger impact on the lives of children in Australia.

Innovation isn't new in the field of early childhood development. But if we want to make large-scale change, innovation in small pockets is not enough. We need to go big and innovate across organisations and sectors.



The approach we are taking is unique because we use the power of Collective Impact, led by communities as we drive local and national innovation together.

WHAT WE DO

To achieve our shared goal, our aim in the next five years is to create positive change for children in our partner communities and start the important work of changing the system nationally.

We do this by enabling the leaders and teams that coordinate collective action in each partner community, helping them build the conditions they need to succeed.

Our national collective is guided by a shared strategy and vision, delivered through our **five key areas of work**: OC Collective, OC Learning, OC Capital, OC Impact and OC Voice.



We work with communities and national partners to develop, test and adapt new ways of working across different sectors. Led by the people living and working in our partner communities, we create new cultures, governance structures and strategies together.

OC LEARNING

We develop the skills, knowledge and mindsets needed to do Collective Impact well. This is a new approach, so there's no handbook or expert with all the answers. So we learn together as we go. We create opportunities to learn through doing, from each other and by reflecting on patterns as they emerge.

OC CAPITAL

We develop a sustainable pool of funding to invest in initiatives that are focused on early childhood, led by communities, and designed to create systemic change. We want to show investors that it's worth taking calculated risks to solve big social challenges like childhood vulnerability.

OC IMPACT

We create new ways of measuring the impact of our work on the ground, allowing us to track progress in Collective Impact across Australia for the first time. We use that knowledge to adapt what we do for better results, demonstrate what works, and stop doing things that waste money and effort.

OC VOICE

We speak with a loud collective voice to inform and influence others. Weaving together our combined experience and knowledge with what we create and learn as we innovate, we use our national voice to influence social policy and enable systems change.

WHAT IS COLLECTIVE IMPACT?

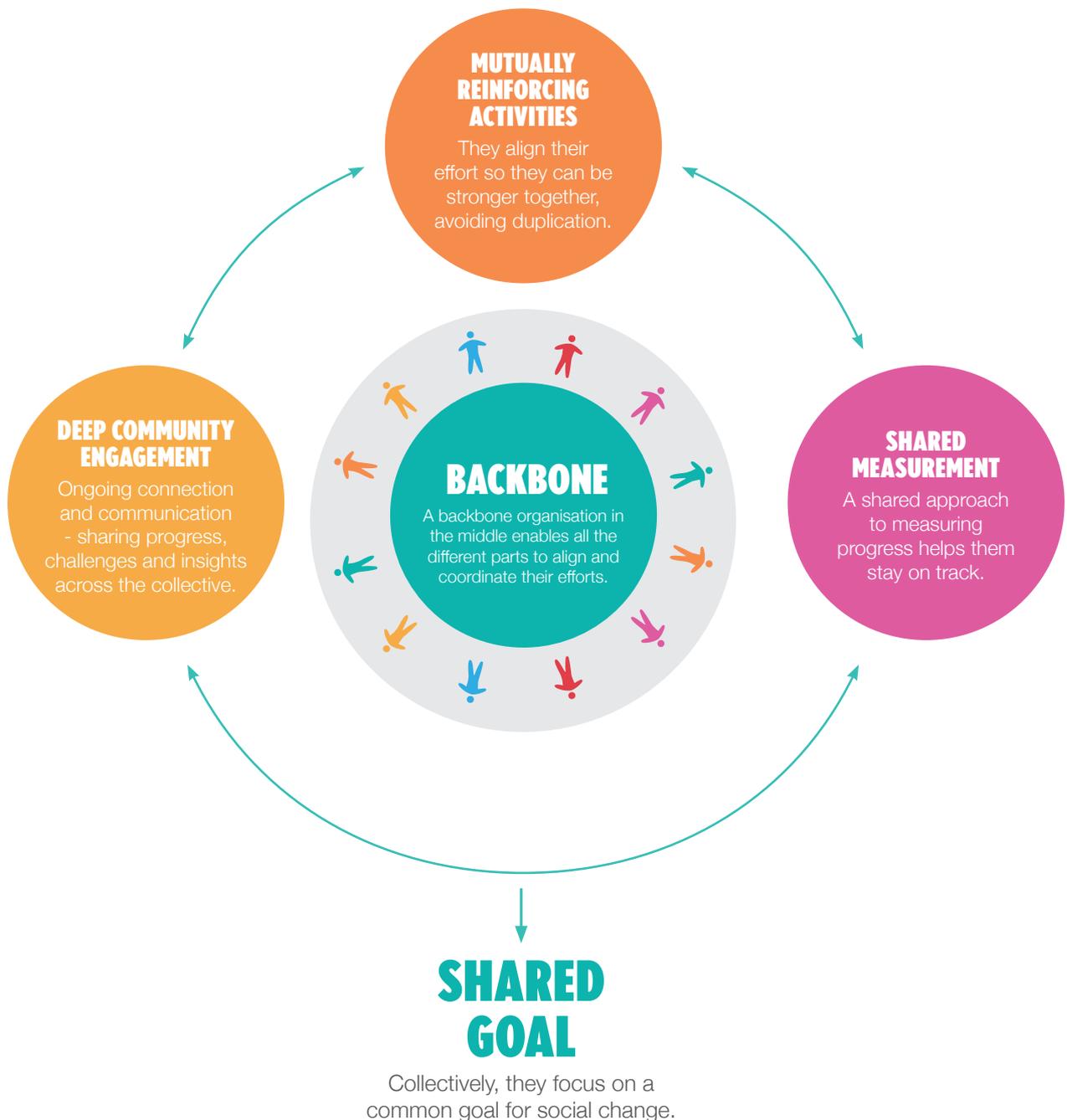


It's a ground-breaking framework for creating large-scale social and systems change.

INSTEAD OF WORKING ALONE TO TACKLE A COMPLEX SOCIAL PROBLEM...



PEOPLE, ORGANISATIONS AND SECTORS WORK TOGETHER, LED BY COMMUNITIES.



HOW WE USE COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Collective Impact gives structure and accountability to the way we collaborate with our partner communities and organisations nationally.

It helps us to work together towards a shared purpose instead of competing with each other or duplicating our efforts.

This means we can align the resources we have to innovate, learn and improve across the national system.

Each OC Partner Community also uses Collective Impact locally to improve the lives of children, tailoring their approach to best suit the needs of the place they call home.



ABOUT US



OUR PARTNER COMMUNITIES

We partner with six high-potential communities – places where many children are developmentally vulnerable, but where Collective Impact is already alive and well. Our work is led by these communities and aims to accelerate and amplify the great work they're already doing. Their experience and insight guides where we focus, and they actively work with Opportunity Child and our partner organisations to create, test and adapt new ways of working. They benefit from learning, investment and influence that they couldn't access on their own.

WHERE ARE OUR PARTNER COMMUNITIES?

Our partner communities include Go Goldfields (Victoria), The Hive - Mt Druitt (New South Wales), Logan Together (Queensland), the NT Collective (Northern Territory), Together in the South (South Australia) and a Western Australian collective.

HOW DO WE SELECT OUR PARTNER COMMUNITIES?

Participating as a partner community is sophisticated and demanding, so we use detailed selection criteria. Each community must show the appetite, commitment and capacity to align to a shared goal, be part of the learning system, create collective action, and exert influence both locally and nationally.



OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

We work with eight national leaders in early childhood practice, place-based research, service delivery and catalytic philanthropy. They come from different sectors but they all have the mindset, capacity, resources and networks to transform themselves, support our portfolio of communities, and influence change at the system level.

WHO ARE OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS?



OUR LEARNING NETWORK

We also cultivate a broader community of practice, which includes our partners but is open to other communities, agencies and individuals who want to practice Collective Impact. By sharing expertise and insights from our work in our partner communities with others, we aim to accelerate the development of Collective Impact nationally.

GET IN TOUCH

W: opportunitychild.com.au **E:** support@opportunitychild.com.au **F:** facebook.com/opportunitychild