The Geelong Project

A ‘community of schools & services’
[COSS] model

RESULTS AND PROSPECTS
Why has early intervention been so difficult?
disadvantage?

- family dysfunction
- family conflict
- community poverty
- mental health issues

**Youth homelessness**: 230 adolescents/year (2002-13)

**Early school leaving**: about 200 - 250 youth/year in Geelong

**Petty crime**: Adolescents: 212 assaults; 129 property; 334 theft; 39 disorderly conduct (2016)

**Illicit substance use**: Going down, about 1000 have smoked marijuana; 84 tried ICE; 120 have tried ecstasy
Program Logic Outcomes Matrix

**Individual**
- Short-term: Engaged with SYI support
- Medium-term: Improved self-esteem and motivation/aspirations
- Long-term: On a positive education/training or employment transition pathway

**School**
- Short-term: Improved engagement at school
- Medium-term: Improved attendance & school achievement
- Long-term: Improved Year 12 completions/Reduced early school leaving

**Family**
- Short-term: Improved family relations/reduced family risk factors
- Medium-term: Reduced youth homelessness
- Long-term: Remains at home or has safe & secure housing

**Community**
- Short-term: Participating in community activities/mentoring/sports or recreation
- Medium-term: New peer to peer relationships
- Long-term: Improved social relations and community participation

Impact:
- Sustainable employment
- Independent living situation
The ‘community of schools and services’ model of early intervention

[COSS MODEL]

(aka The Geelong Project)
Foundations of TGP/ COSS Model

**COLLABORATION**

‘community of schools and services’

**COSS Model**

**EARLY IDENTIFICATION**

‘Population Screening’

**AIAD – Australian Index of Adolescent Development**

**LONGITUDINAL OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT**

- Reduced family conflicts & homelessness;
- Less early school leaving

**PRACTICE FRAMEWORK**

- Multi-tiered;
- Flexible;
- Dynamic over time;
COLLABORATION: The ‘Geelong’ Project
EARLY IDENTIFICATION: At-risk profile

Population Profile - three pilot schools in Geelong, AIAD 2017

- Student Population: 1277
- At-risk of homelessness: 80 (4.6%)
- Not At-risk of Homelessness: 1197 (95.4%)
  - Mental health issues indicated: 259 (21.6%)
    - Low school disengagement: 225 (87%)
    - High school disengagement: 34 (13%)
  - No mental health issues indicate: 938 (78.4%)
    - High school disengagement: 22 (2.4%)
    - Low school disengagement: 916 (97.6%)
PRACTICE FRAMEWORK: Youth-Focused & Family-Centred whole-of-cohort interventions

Screening Process

Joint Decisions

TIER 1
- Secondary Consultation
- Some risk Active Monitoring

TIER 2
- Short-term intervention
- Case Management

TIER 3
- Wrap-around Case Work

Systematic monitoring within school supported by TGP/MGP
Referrals to TGP/MGP
Referrals to other agency
What results?
The number of homeless adolescents [Geelong 2002 – 2017]
The number of homeless adolescents [Geelong 2002 – 2017]
Geelong early school leavers

Geelong Early School Leavers

![Graph showing the number of Geelong early school leavers from 2011 to 2016. The number of leavers varies each year, with some years showing a peak and others a trough. The graph is labeled "Geelong Early School Leavers" and includes a line for All Geelong Schools.]
Geelong early school leavers

Geelong Early School Leavers

Number of early school leavers

YEAR


Pilot Schools
Other Schools
All Geelong Schools
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Common Agenda</strong></th>
<th>All participants have a shared vision for change including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to its solution through agreed upon actions.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shared Measurement</strong></td>
<td>Data collection and measurement of outcomes consistently across all participants to ensure efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.</td>
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<td><strong>Mutually Reinforcing Activities</strong></td>
<td>The activities of participants may be different while still being tightly coordinated through a mutually agreed common plan of action.</td>
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<td><strong>Continuous Communication</strong></td>
<td>Consistent and open communication amongst participants to build trust, assure mutual objectives and build common motivation.</td>
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<td><strong>Backbone Support</strong></td>
<td>A skilled staff and organisational form to build and manage the entire collective impact initiative by coordinating the participant organisations and activities.</td>
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Organising for change ...

- **Upstream Project Australia (UPA) consortium**
  - University of South Australia (UNISA)
  - Youth Development Australia (YDA)

- Youthworzx
- National Youth Commission (NYC)
- A Way Home Australia

Projects:
- The Geelong Project
- The Albury Project
- The Mt Gambier Project
The challenge is place-based system reform and a cross-sectoral approach