



# **HANDS UP MALLEE**

## **Annual Action and Support Plan 2024**



We acknowledge the Latji Latji as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Country on which we are. We also acknowledge their near neighbours the Barkindji.

We pay our respects to the Elders past, present, and emerging and to the ancient connection they hold with their Country.

We acknowledge there are also other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live, work in and contribute to the cultural heritage of the Mildura region.

### About Hands up Mallee

Hands Up Mallee (HUM) is a place-based collective impact initiative in the Mildura LGA in the far northwest of Victoria. A group of local leaders began the HUM initiative when they recognised that we needed to work together differently to address social, health and wellbeing equity issues in our community.

HUM works in partnership with the community, local service providers, agencies and all three levels of government. The initiative takes a place-based approach to solutions for local issues centring on community voice and combining this with local data and current research to develop collective action for a better community for children, young people and their families. HUM is committed to continuous learning and improvement concerning its work to achieve positive social outcomes for the Mildura community.

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## Purpose and Context

The Action and Support Plan is an overview of the key agreed actions, that are the outcome of the 2023 Hands Up Mallee Progress Mapping and Learning Circle process.

Progress Mapping focusses on exploring Hands Up Mallee' progress as a Stronger Places Stronger People site and tracks change across six different enablers of Collective Impact:

- Systems leadership
- Inclusive Community Engagement
- Understanding, Measurement, Evaluation and Learning
- Use of collective power for purpose
- Investment for policy and purpose
- Leading and supporting change

The Learning Circle drew together people from community, government, local agencies and the backbone team to discuss the key findings from the Progress Mapping sessions and agree upon actions to strengthen the enablers for change over the next 12 months.

## Progress Mapping & Learning Circle Timeline

**Progress Mapping Sessions** 5-6 September 2023, 30 people from across the HUM initiative were involved in the Progress Mapping Sessions, which were facilitated by Clear Horizon and Aunty Vickey Charles from The Australian Centre for Social Innovation. Six small group discussion sessions took place in Mildura of which one was a blended online session.

**The Learning Circle** was held on the 16th of November, 2023, where 30 people discussed the key findings of the Progress Mapping and what the 2024 Action and Support Plan should include. The Learning Circle conversations were facilitated using a World Café approach.

Participants were drawn from

- The HUM Governance group
- The HUM Yarning group
- Community
- State and Federal Government
- Local Government and service partners
- The HUM Backbone team

# Action and Support Plan

The Action and Support Plan outlines Hands Up Mallee's agreed priority actions on the enablers for change for the 2024. It should be noted that many of the actions listed are long term and ongoing, and will not be completed by 2025. Where this is the case, HUM hopes to see significant progress in these areas over the next twelve months, and acknowledges some of actions listed will take multiple years to complete, and others will evolve and require continuous strengthening over the lifespan of the initiative

## Action 1.

### **Further enable the use of collective power for purpose by embedding community decision making in systems and processes**

Continue to enhance the community's input into decision-making and their involvement in the design of services.

Establish approaches for Shared Decision-Making and Co-designing Local Solutions. Test and learn from the approaches to inform further investment in Shared Decision-Making and Local Solutions.

## Action Two:

### **Further enable inclusive community engagement**

Continue to strengthen HUM's engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their emerging leaders, and communities by:-

- Embedding the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in all parts of the collaborative work of HUM.

## Action 3.

### **Develop resources to help attract and onboard partners from various sectors.**

Develop other communication resources that explain HUM and its ways of working to help attract and onboard new partners from various sectors that make up the community, for example around things like movement building and attracting the corporate sector.

HUM Governance members to meet with, and present to, local boards to help them understand the value of HUM, identify opportunities for alignment, and encourage them to become involved in collaborative approaches and efforts.

Develop partnership agreements with government, services and businesses that support a collective impact approach.

## **Action 4.**

### **Further enable Measurement, Evaluation and Learning**

Progress data sharing by working with *Stronger Places, Stronger People* at the initiative level to gain improved access to relevant population data.

Identify opportunities to share locally collected data, and develop data sharing agreements to support these.

Liaise with the Aboriginal Voices Yarning Group and other representatives to develop an Indigenous Data Sovereignty Framework to complement HUM's existing Ethics, Privacy and Safety Framework. Engage appropriate consultancy service(s) to facilitate this work.

Strengthen the ways that HUM can demonstrate value to the community, partners, and investors. For example, through external evaluation and sharing internal evaluation and reporting practices with partners and community.

## **Action 5.**

### **Further enable investment and policy for purpose**

Undertake more extensive resource mapping to make aggregated funding amounts more transparent and to increase accountability to the community.

Advocate for flexible Federal and State funding arrangements for HUM partners delivering services in the Mildura LGA.

## **Conclusion**

To reach the long-term changes our community is seeking, time and energy must be devoted to strengthening the enablers for change. The six actions outlined above will guide efforts to strengthen Hands Up Mallee's collaborative foundations for impact over the next 12 to 18 months. These actions were developed collaboratively using broad input from across the Hands Up Mallee stakeholder ecosystem using the tools developed by DSS.