



Red Cliffs Half Court Basketball Youth Project

Evaluation Report

November 2024

Acknowledgement to Country

Hands Up Mallee (HUM) acknowledges all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people where we work, live and connect with the community.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and the ancient connection they hold with their Country. We value their knowledge, wisdom and legacies that continue to guide our work towards positive social change.

About Hands Up Mallee

Hands Up Mallee connects community, government and services to create change for children, young people and their families. We are a collective impact initiative based in the Mildura Local Government Area, on Latji Latji country in north-west Victoria. Since 2015, we've been bringing together local people, services, and government to work differently, leading to better outcomes for children, young people and families. Our work covers areas like health, education and family child services.

Our place-based approach is guided by community voice, backed by evidence, data and research. By listening, learning and acting together, we're building a stronger, more connected future.

Contributor Acknowledgement

Hands Up Mallee recognises the generosity of all partners and community members who share their time, words, insights, and support to work collaboratively and create change. Their contribution is essential to our work. The stories and information shared, and outcomes achieved in our journey together to create a connected community where families matter and children thrive, belong to them and the Northern Mallee.

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Executive Summary

The Red Cliffs Half Basketball Court Youth Project

The project in partnership with Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC), engaged local young people in the co-design and activation of a new half basketball court to promote equity, safety, accessibility, and youth agency.

Through this collaborative process, the project aimed to understand how young people in Red Cliffs want to use, activate, and care for the court; identify design needs to support these goals; foster ongoing youth and community leadership; and deliver a youth-led event to celebrate the court's development with the wider community.

Key Findings from Evaluation

1. Increased Youth Confidence, Agency and Influence

Red Cliffs youth participated meaningfully in the design of the half court, gaining confidence, leadership skills, and stronger connections with community decision-makers. They feel valued and are motivated to do more in their community. Community and service leaders are learning from local youth.

2. Good Design Decisions Lead to Positive Feedback and Usage

The court is likely to be a valued community asset, promoting recreation, socialisation, and ongoing youth advocacy in local decision-making.

The activation event attracted 200 attendees and 27 teams, showcasing strong community support and involvement.

Key Learnings

- Early youth engagement ensures better project outcomes
- Simple, cost-effective events can significantly enhance community participation and ongoing usage
- Collaboration among stakeholders is critical for success

The project highlights the importance of youth-led initiatives in creating community assets that support health and wellbeing outcomes for youth.

What's Next

In the Mildura LGA a key barrier to social participation and connection for youth is access and involvement in decision making.

Hands Up Mallee will focus on building on co-design and pilot work to embed a practice of equity, access, and decision making to shift and change the way that new and existing publicly owned and managed community assets, resources, policies, and relationships are working to increase participation, reduce social isolation and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for young people and children.



Background

Youth-led Consultation

In 2022, Hands Up Mallee (HUM) led a co-design project in collaboration with local young people, families, and youth services to engage the community and identify key priorities, challenges, and opportunities to support positive outcomes for youth. The project empowered young people and families to take the lead in designing and conducting consultations with their peers, aiming to better understand the experiences of youth in the community, including the main barriers and supports to their development. Insights from youth and family voices, local data, and relevant research informed this work.

Young people and families said:

- Youth participation is limited by lack of public transport
- There is a lack of safe and engaging spaces for youth to meet with their peers
- There are limited things to do that are casual, free or low cost
- Most activities for young people are delivered in Mildura

The co-design project identified key strategic opportunities to better support young people aged 9 to 18 and the people who care for them. One of the central themes that emerged was the importance of places and spaces, and how well-designed community infrastructure plays a critical role in promoting wellbeing outcomes by increasing protective factors and reducing risk factors.

A key opportunity involved working in new ways with young people to ensure that the design and activation of community infrastructure reflect their needs, with a strong emphasis on equity. Local Government, which leads the investment, development, and activation of community spaces, was a key partner in the co-design process and stepped quickly into exploring and supporting pilot work.

Piloting Free Pool Access in Red Cliffs

During the summer of 2022/23, HUM partnered with Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC) Youth Services and Aligned Leisure to pilot a youth engagement initiative at the Red Cliffs pool. This included offering free entry and creating opportunities for young people to be actively involved in the activation of the space. The pilot responded directly to insights shared by Red Cliffs youth about their needs and challenges and explored what alternative approaches and shifts to the system might lead to.

During this work in Red Cliffs, young people advocated strongly for the development of a basketball court in their community. In response, this was embedded in the Red Cliffs Community Plan and funding was secured with MRCC funding for a half court was successfully secured through a combination of VicHealth support and a contribution from Council.



About the Project

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Red Cliffs Half Basketball Court Youth project was to partner with Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC) to engage and work alongside a group of Red Cliffs youth to lead the design and activation of the new half basketball court.

The active involvement of young people through co-design aimed to address equity, safety, accessibility, appeal, and promote a sense of agency for young people in relation to the new community infrastructure.

The co-design work aimed to learn and deliver:

- How do young people of Red Cliffs want to use, activate and care for the new community infrastructure and what design considerations are needed to enable this
- How to generate and establish ongoing youth and community leadership to support the longevity and impact of the court
- A youth-led event to celebrate the court development alongside young people and community

What was not included in the scope of this project:

- Project management of construction of the court (MRCC)
- Preliminary community consultation (MRCC)

Partners and contributions

Red Cliffs Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-design• Youth-to-youth engagement• Community advocacy• Activation event support
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MRCC Youth Engagement Services (YES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support workshop co-ordination and facilitation • Funding for court, youth co-designers and activation event • Lead activation event (planning, staffing, communication)
VicHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding
MRCC Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support workshop co-ordination and facilitation
MRCC Recreation Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide updates of project progress • Support workshop when needed for specific outcome
Red Cliffs Community (Focus Group, Lions Club)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event support

The Role of Hands Up Mallee

- Youth engagement
- Supporting young people to feel safe to share their ideas and expertise
- Co-design lead and facilitator
- Event management and support
- Communications support
- Evaluation lead
- Modelling a different way of working to support key partner's learning through doing

Guiding Principles

The project was guided by the following principles:

- Equity
- Positive youth development and voice
- Participatory
- Learning by doing

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide background of the Red Cliffs Half Basketball Court Youth project
- Summarise the process, activities, learnings and outcomes
- Identify opportunities that relate to the work

Key Audiences

This report is intended to inform:

- Hands Up Mallee
- Mildura Rural City Council
- Red Cliffs Community
- Department of Social Services
- VicHealth

Methodology

The evaluation and report have been designed, developed and prepared by Hands Up Mallee Backbone. See Appendix 3 for more details of the evaluation methodology.



What Happened

Project Timeline

When	What	Who
May 2023	Project planning with service providers	HUM
October 2023	Youth engagement	HUM
November 2023	Co-design Workshop #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting to know each other and the opportunity 	Youth, HUM, MRCC YES, MRCC CD
	Co-design Workshop #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring who might use the court and how and what might be needed to support that - Type of court and location 	Youth, HUM, MRCC YES
May 2024	Co-design Workshop #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term thinking and planning about the use of the court - Deciding court colours - Planning an activation event 	Youth, HUM, MRCC YES, MRCC RD
June 2024	Co-design Workshop #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Event planning - Theory of Change 	Youth, HUM
	Co-design Workshop #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final planning for event - Planning community advocacy 	Youth, HUM, MRCC YES
July 2024	Focus Group Presentation by Youth	Youth, HUM, MRCC CD
November 2024	Court was built	MRCC
December 2024	Activation Event – Launch of new half court in red Cliffs	All project partners

Connecting with Young People


The HUM team formed a co-design group made up of eight young people from Red Cliffs aged between 9 – 18 years for this project.

Approaches for engaging with young people included:

- Inviting and encouraging youth who have been involved in past co-design work and through sustained engagement, to take on a new opportunity
- Young people brought their own friends to the project
- Social media
- Via local community connections
- Via local schools, direct emails with staff, posters at schools, schools outreach via sharing social media and newsletters
- Posters in local shop windows

Co-design workshops were designed to be engaging and accessible for young people by incorporating creative activities, providing snacks and breaks, and choosing convenient locations.

The scope of the project was clarified from the beginning through discussions and documentation to ensure clarity and keep expectations realistic for both the services and young people.



“We originally got involved because we were bored and didn’t have anything to do, so the boys and I decided we would have our say.”

- Youth Co-designer

Co-designing the Court

The co-design process involved exploration of the needs and desires of local young people to ensure that the court design and location supported this as best as possible.

The young people emphasised their desire for the half court to be different to existing local youth spaces and reflected on the reasons why. Feelings of safety were highlighted as important and these are impacted by limited visibility, use of space and maintenance.

The group determined that the following things would make the new half court a place that young people want to use and feel good being there:

- To be clean and well maintained. People subconsciously behave better in this kind of environment
- The right facilities such as bins with chains, seats so you can hang out
- Signs to communicate what people want from the space and what is expected of those using it
- The more people using a space, the safer it is, and the more likely it is to be used
- Run regular training and tournaments there
- Regular communication to the local community about the space and how people could care for it and act, but with the right language for teenagers

The young people were given the opportunity to influence the decisions about:

- The court location
- Size of court (key vs. half court)
- Court colours within given parameters
- The type of hoop.

Co-designing an Activation Event


The co-design process focused on both the design considerations of the court as well as the design of a launch event to activate the court.

The young people were invested in having the activation event be a success, and their own experience with basketball and tournament events meant they were well placed to plan an exciting event for youth.

The co-design group used brainstorming methods such as working through the planning tool below. The most important aspects for the young people was that the games were good, everyone got a chance to play in a fair age group and that there was a great vibe.

Version 1: Court activation event planning

Red Cliffs Basketball half-court launch event Workshop 4



Event details

Prize tournament
Speeches

Day: Fri 30th AUGUST

Time: 4–5.30/6pm
after school

Location:
At the court Red Cliffs

Who is the event for?

People who will use the court:

- Red Cliffs youth
- Red Cliffs community

Funders

- MRCC, Vic Health

Who do we need to run the event?

- Umpires
- Score keeper
- Time keeper
- Someone to help organise teams
- MC to run formal part of event
- Someone to cook & serve bbq

How do we get the word out to community?

- Through schools via compass
- social media
- posters and flyers
- Council newsletter

What is happening on court?
e.g. activities

3x3 games, either in age groups - U9, U/12, U/14, 16+

OR whoever turns up gets put into teams

First to 10 or first to 21

High profile players would be great and get people there

Have an adults vs kids one

Equipment & Materials

Uniforms - ask Homebase

Basketballs

scoreboard

BBQ stuff

tables, seats

water trailer

prize

bins

Anything else?

Will get school kids on Friday and think there won't be much difference in numbers after winter sport finishes.

Not Sunday as people go shoot hoops and won't come.

Police but come in normal clothes and without weapons and stuff.

Talk to focus group for help to promote and look after in long term


What's happening off court?

Free BBQ

Music for the vibe (DJ Steph???)

Kids activities:

- Face painting, Balloons
- bubbles, Colouring in competition,
- Jumping castle?

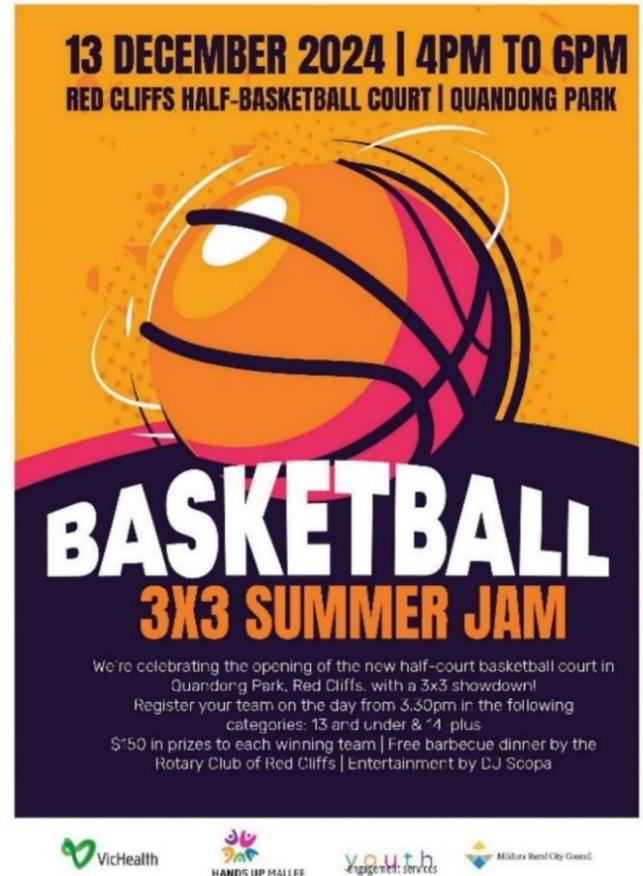


Final event design	
Date/time	Friday 13 th December 2024 Registration starts 3.30pm, games from 4pm.
Purpose	Hold a fun and friendly basketball tournament so everyone knows the new court is there and they will come and use it.
What will we have happening	3x3 prize tournament, \$150 prize for winner team to share, new basketball for 2 nd prize players, free to enter, free bbq & water, music.
What's the vibe we want	Fun, friendly, everyone welcome, families, but good basketball games
Who's it for	Middle years: 8-13 years, Youth: 14-18 years, Red Cliffs families and friends
Who will help	Co-design group, MRCC staff, HUM staff, Red Cliffs Lions Club, Red Cliffs Focus Group
What do we need	Basketballs, prize, bins, water, bbq stuff, scoreboard, clear rules

Event promotion

The event was promoted through:

- Poster drops in Red Cliffs by co-design youth.
- Three co-design participants advocating for support for the event and the space to the Red Cliffs Focus Group, a major decision-making group for the community
- Social media promotion (Hands Up Mallee, MRCC Youth Engagement Services)
- Local radio advertising, local radio morning segment with Deputy Mayor
- Media releases by MRCC
<https://shorturl.at/xtPxs>
<https://shorturl.at/1EVjW>
- Word of mouth by youth at the local basketball precinct



Event results

- Approximately 180 attendees, including families from all over the district.
- 80 registrations and 27 teams competed across the two age categories
- 3x3 games were quick paced, with mixed skill levels, genders and ages competing
- Extremely positive feedback for the event, collected through surveying with many requests that it continues to happen. The type of hoop received great feedback

- Co-design members helped set-up/pack down, organise teams, bringing the vibe, speaking with media, collecting survey responses and playing
- One co-design member who was unable to play ran the scoreboard and was instrumental in providing clarification and guidance when a decision was disputed
- Red Cliffs community supported the event with the Red Cliffs Lions Club cooking the BBQ and a member of the Red Cliffs Focus Group assisting in setting up
- Attended by the Deputy Mayor, Senior Council staff and Victoria Police in support of youth
- Media coverage post event included the local paper, radio and social media

Click below to watch the event and hear from some of the participants and key partners involved in the 2024 Summer Jam 3x3 Basketball event, held at the newly opened Red Cliffs Half Basketball Court.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jg49X6_ytds



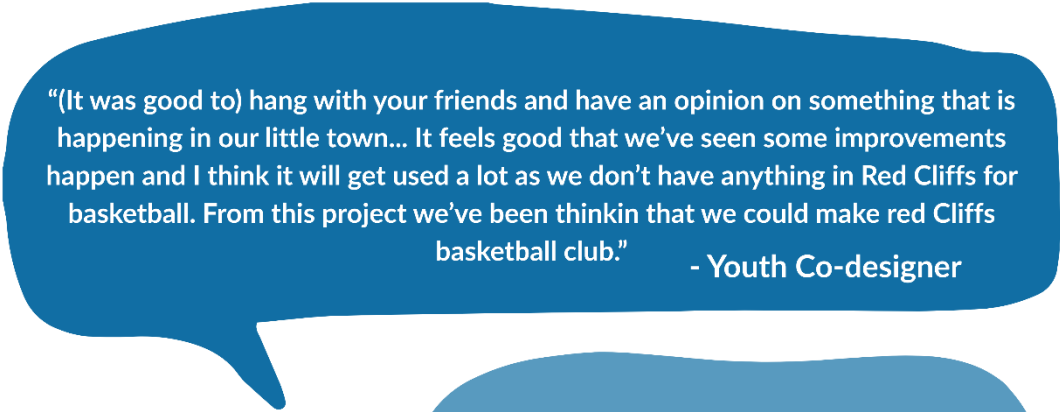
Evaluation Findings

Impact

Young people gain confidence in their ability to make a difference in their community.


Four of the youth co-designers had been part of a previous HUM youth project (Free Pool Access Pilot) and have seen the positive outcome in their community. These young people led some conversations in the workshop while looking out for others, especially the younger member of the group, but also had fun with each other.

These young people pushed themselves, and supported another participant to also do so, to move beyond their comfort zone in workshops and when presenting to the Focus Group.



“(It was good to) hang with your friends and have an opinion on something that is happening in our little town... It feels good that we’ve seen some improvements happen and I think it will get used a lot as we don’t have anything in Red Cliffs for basketball. From this project we’ve been thinkin that we could make red Cliffs basketball club.”

- Youth Co-designer



“(I’m the most proud)” that we have actually made an impact and created another safe space for the people of Red Cliffs.”

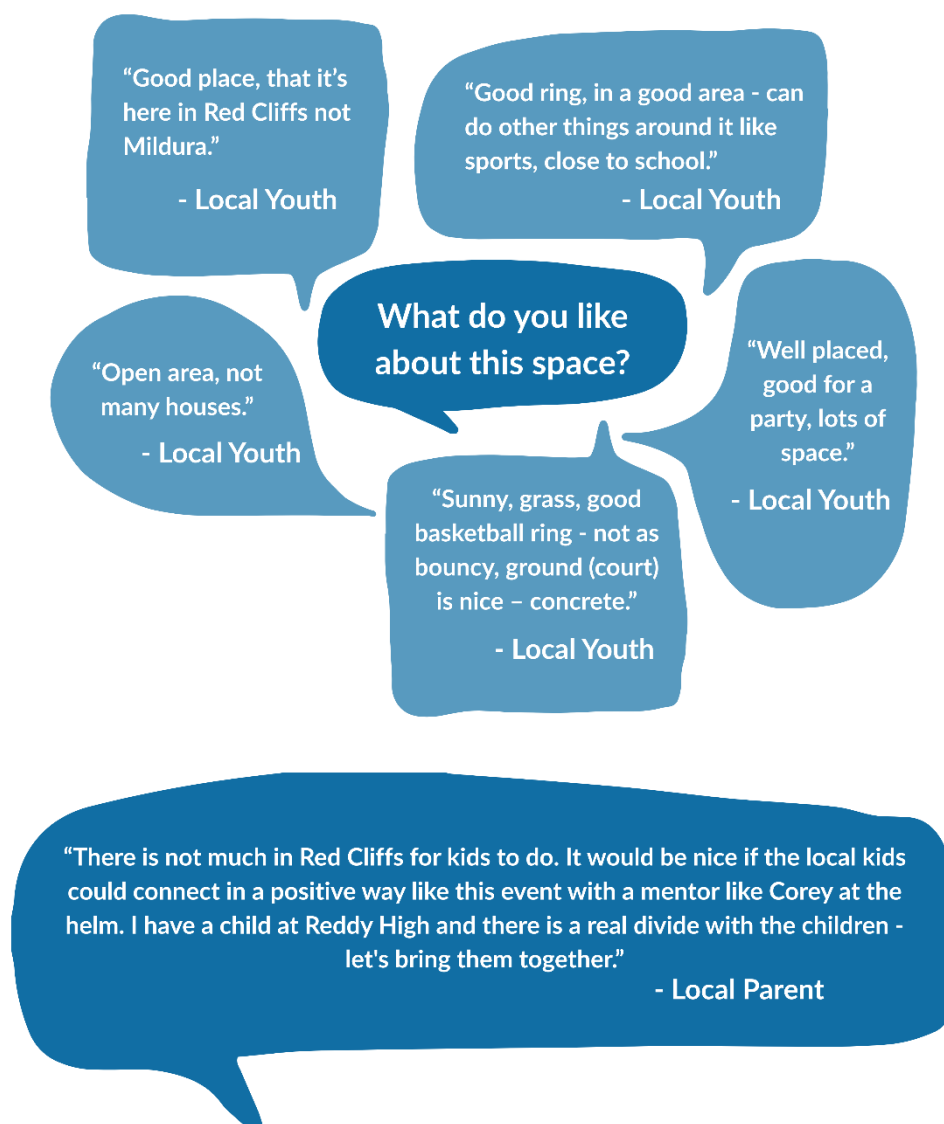
- Youth Co-designer

Community Infrastructure Supporting Young People in Red Cliffs

The funding for the half court project was secured after young people in Red Cliffs advocated for a basketball court and more things to do for youth where there are limited free and accessible places to go and things to do. Living in a community with infrastructure that supports healthy living and encourages participation is fundamental to youth wellbeing as well as having a say in matters that affect them.

The role of young people, through co-design ensured young people had the opportunity to meaningfully have a say about the new community infrastructure and help to set it up for success.

Launch event numbers and initial feedback received from community (particularly youth) at the event indicated that the design considerations led by young people were appealing to others and met their needs.



Decision Makers Connecting with Young People in their Community

During the co-design process, the group explored beyond their own experiences and needs to learn about how others in community might want to use the space and what the benefits of this might be for the wider community.

A Theory of Change process helped to explore this in the co-design workshops and provided a framework and language around the opportunities a half basketball court can create what it might need to work best for all and what it would lead to in terms of outcomes for community.

When advocating for support for the project at the Red Cliffs Focus Group's AGM, this background work helped provide the youth with language and viewpoints additional to their own to incorporate in their speeches. The Focus Group responded well, asking many questions and sharing their own experiences.

This was the first time young people presented to the Focus Group in this way, and the group remain eager to have youth involved, as well as to understand what motivates young people to volunteer and participate in community projects.

"It is great to see our youth so engaged in this project and their enthusiasm in the ongoing success of the half court. It will be good to see them continue their engagement with their community in the coming years. It is only through this continued engagement that communities such as ours can continue to develop in ways that reflect the needs of those in the community."

- Brendan Murray, President, Red Cliffs Focus Group

"I really enjoyed hearing from these guys. You can feel that they understand this is more than just a half court. It is a way to engage the wider community in a positive activity that brings all ages together. Well done."


- Tom Fagan, Red Cliffs Focus Group

The co-design project not only supported young people to play a meaningful role but also enable community leaders within their own community to support them, hear from them and understand more about how to work in partnership with young people into the future.

Ripple effects

Young people are being heard and asked to contribute to local change by people who have key community positions of power.

With support from HUM, three young people from the co-design group attended a Red Cliffs Community Plan meeting after the court project. They offered valuable insights on three agenda items, with attendees encouraging their input and requesting further contributions in the future.



“What I learned from it was that kids can have a say in what they can do. And doing something good for the community makes me feel so good.”

- Youth Co-designer

Effectiveness

Engaging and retaining young people in the project

The co-design group was diverse in age, gender, cultural background and family's socio-economic status. This was enabled by an equity focused approach to engagement, supported by ongoing relationships with youth and the broader Red Cliffs community and helped to reach the right people. Being flexible with the engagement approach also supported youth-to-youth engagement which was a powerful engagement tool (e.g. if a friend wanted to join the group at a later stage, this could be supported).

Most of the youth stayed engaged in the project, even though the timelines were longer than initially planned.

The young people attributed this to:

- They appreciated being paid for their time
- Enjoying the co-design process and workshops
- Snacks
- They wanted the half court to be right for local youth

"The workshop was fun because it was something new and I like doing something new."

- Youth Co-designer

"How you worked with us to properly get the ideas out (and the food)."

- Youth Co-designer

"It was also a good experience being nominated for the Youth Awards, and great to meet others at the award night."

- Youth Co-designer

Some young people stayed involved post the court completion and the end of the project by attending the Red Cliffs Community Planning meeting with HUM's support.

The co-design participants were nominated by HUM for the MRCC Youth Awards, and they expressed gratitude for the acknowledgement and experience, which they had not received before.

Red Cliffs Community Engagement and Support for Youth

Wider engagement with the Red Cliffs community was broad and support for the young people and the project included:

- Red Cliffs Secondary College's contribution of space out of school hours to hold the workshops
- Red Cliffs Lions Club cooking the BBQ at the activation event

- Red Cliffs Focus Group helping set up the activation event, included the young people at their AGM as guest speakers and continue to seek young people's involvement in community projects

Collaboration with Project Partners

Collaborating across multiple Council departments posed some initial challenges in relation to high level project planning. Efforts to work together were more successful once there was time spent across departments and with HUM to ensure there was alignment and clarity of intended outcomes, scope and timelines and roles. The importance of this being communicated to all was critical.

The co-design approach with youth for the design and delivery of the half court project was quite different to the usual approach, and the way in which staff members showed up during co-design sessions was really important. Council team members took part in ice breakers and active breaks, listened, provided clarification and updates and acted on the young people's opinion when project scope enabled this. Because of this the young people felt comfortable with them and that their opinions were being heard and mattered.

"I learnt how much impact and buy-in you can have by taking the time and necessary process to listen and get feedback on what certain cohorts of the community want."

- MRCC Recreation Development

HUM has previously worked with MRCC YES team on a Red Cliffs youth co-design project and this prior experience and relationship helped to make the project go as smoothly as possible, even with challenges of timeline blow outs and working across multiple departments.

"HUM's strong relationships with youth and community, good communication on project progress from Recreation Development, and youth led / co-designed activation event brought community and young people to space – it was a great project and event."

- MRCC Youth Engagement

Learnings

Engage Key Users Early and Effectively for Greater Impact and Buy-in.

This project has demonstrated that involving key end users in community infrastructure design in a way that goes somewhat beyond consultation can help to ensure that the design is aligned to needs.

Reflections from MRCC staff and the event survey results suggest that taking the opportunity to engage end users from the instigation of a project would create a community space that not only meets the needs of users but would save time and resources in the long run.

For example:

The hoop and backboard were highly rated in the event survey. Sports and Recreation staff had changed the original design of these after feedback during a workshop by young people who play basketball five days a week.

Top suggestions from the youth surveys at the activation event of how to improve the new space included:

- Bubble taps - 86%
- Seats – 93%
- Shade – 100%
- Lights – 60%

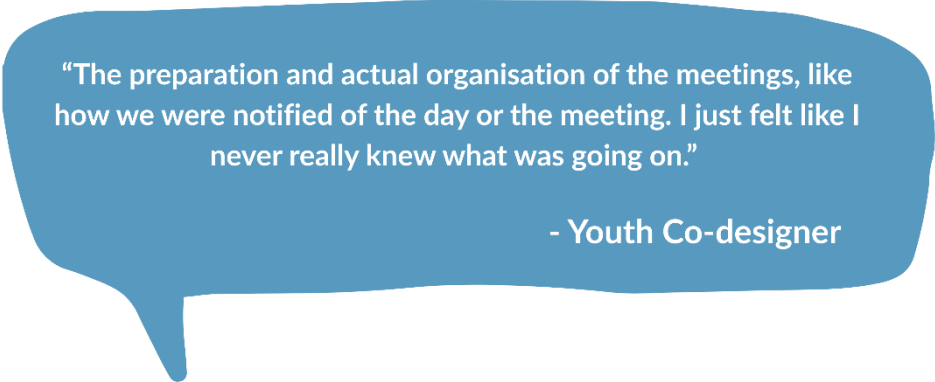
*Fifteen groups of attendees were surveyed at the event.

“From the start explore opportunities for the scope of the project to grow. Such as bubble taps and lights, this will obviously depend on the project budget and funding.”-Mildura Rural City Council Recreation Development

The Red Cliffs Focus Group is now investigating how to fund and work through council policies to have the bubble tap installed at the court.

Communication With the Co-designers

Life for parents is busy, with many competing priorities. At times messages regarding workshop dates or times were not passed onto the youth, which didn't work well.



"The preparation and actual organisation of the meetings, like how we were notified of the day or the meeting. I just felt like I never really knew what was going on."

- Youth Co-designer

The HUM team will review consent forms and ensure that there is an opportunity to seek consent for communicating directly with young people which may reduce the amount of slow or miscommunication.

Planning Fun and Competitive Youth Events

The youth-led approach to planning and designing the activation meant it was a successful event, this happened through:


- The co-designers knew the best time to run the activity in terms of what people do during the week and fitting in with potentially conflicting events
- Peer to peer promotion can be more effective than anything else. Most of the event participants heard about it from mates at the basketball stadium
- These types of events don't need to be extravagant or expensive. Having music and a free simple BBQ were all that were needed to bring the vibe
- If difficulty occurs during the event, if possible, include a young person in finding a solution, especially if they were part of the planning process

- Local community clubs and businesses want to see the youth of their town thrive and will, when possible, contribute when asked

The number of teams who participated in the activation event surpassed that expected and due to this the competition went 1.5 hours longer than anticipated. The key learning was that prior registration, to help get an idea of numbers as well as catering for teams 'rocking up' would both help planning and remove barriers for participation.

Youth Influence Beyond the Project Team

The Works & Infrastructure Technical Officer, who was not a key partner, but contributed to the project, attended the activation event. During a conversation, he shared that seeing young people involved in the co-design process had shifted his perspective. This involvement influenced his attention to detail, such as ensuring the court's placement to maximise shade from trees.



"HUM's strong relationships with youth and community, good communication on project progress from Recreation Development, and youth led / codesigned activation event brought community and young people to space – it was a great project and event"

- MRCC Youth Engagement

The opportunity to connect with end users or priority groups is critical for effective design and also leads to a sense of satisfaction or contribution.

Evidence to support investment

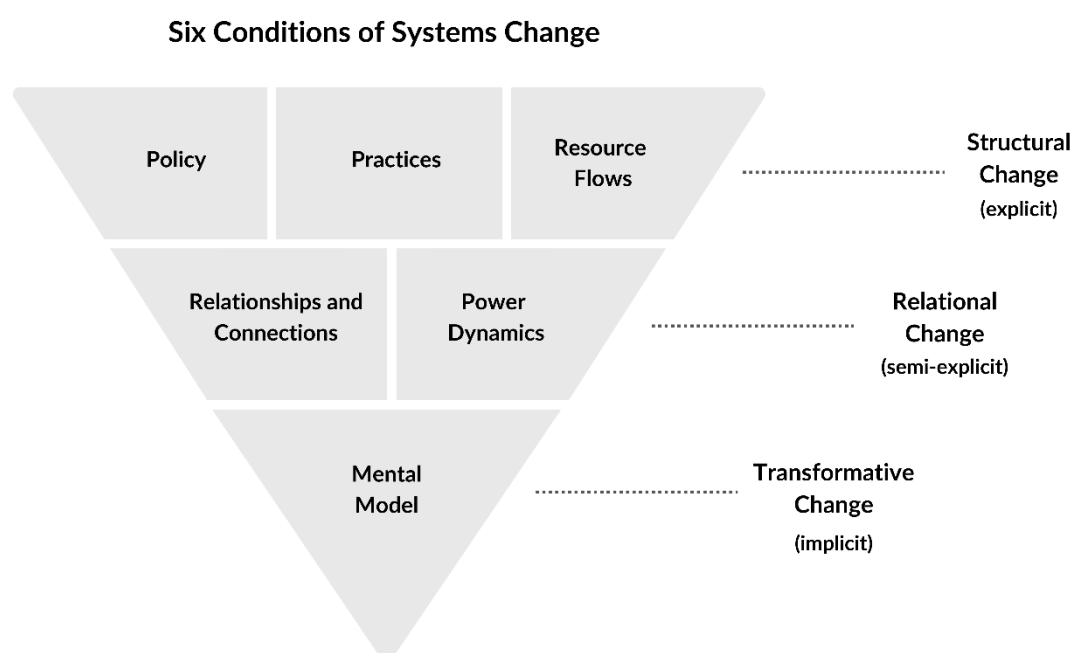
There is a need to support the evaluation of the effectiveness of investment in community infrastructure, particularly when it relates to smaller communities. MRCC

Recreation Development team face challenges proving the usage of infrastructure such as a half court due to the lack of an entry counter or charge. This makes it difficult to demonstrate a return on investment to funders, limiting their ability to replicate similar projects in other small communities.

Early Signs of System Change

Hands Up Mallee employs a systems change approach to improve outcomes for children, young people and families focussing on prevention and early intervention.

As part of its approaches to evaluation it looks for signs of systems change related to changes in practices, resource flows, policy, relationships and connections, power dynamics, and mindsets.



• *The Water of Systems Change 2018*

Resources

This project demonstrated the value of and ways in which various resources including grant and organisational funding, staffing, skills and expertise can work together to support meaningful engagement of young people in co-designing community infrastructure.

Relationships and Connections

This project demonstrated how easy it is to create new opportunities for young people to connect with decision makers in their community, and how trusted people can help strengthen this relationship over time.

Power Dynamics

The role of young people shifted in multiple ways through this project, both through a greater decision-making role in the design of the half court and the activation event as well as being connected to the Red Cliffs Focus Group, where young people had not previously been involved. The young people extended themselves beyond the co-design workshops by advocating for support in more formal environments such as the Red Cliffs Focus Group AGM and attended and contributed to the Red Cliffs strategic planning meeting.



What's Next

Recommendations

Support and create opportunities for the half court to be continuously activated in ways that have been determined by young people in partnership with Red Cliffs community and local government.

Ensure young people have an opportunity to input into design decisions and play a lead role from the earliest opportunity as this supports engagement and generates a sense of agency which can lead to sustained outcomes.

Explore ways to embed Measurement, Evaluation and Learning practice to better support investment in community infrastructure and demonstrate the value of active public spaces for community wellbeing.

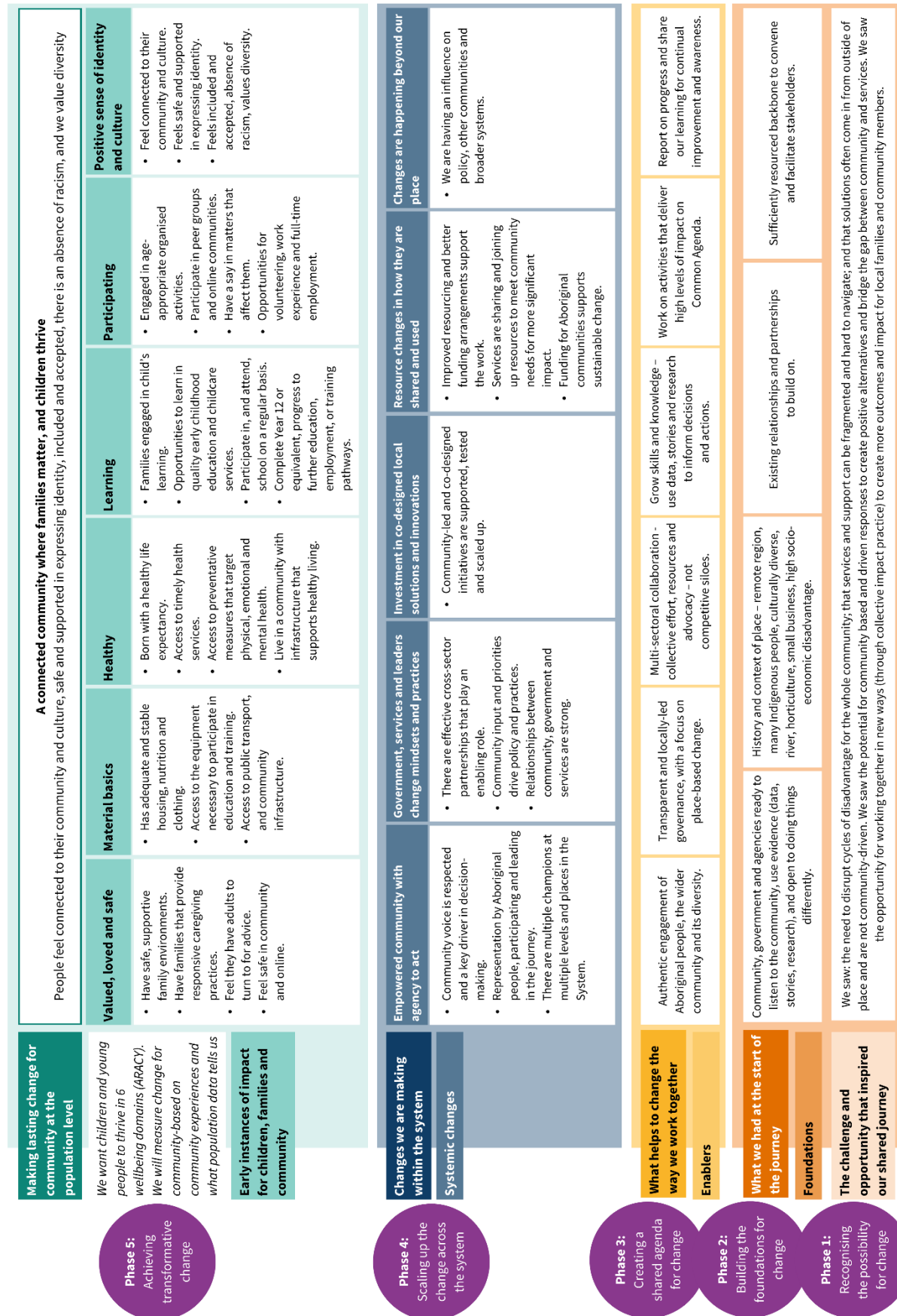
Connect youth-led projects and co-design work to local community leadership groups, strengthening relationships between community leaders and young people as well as build capacity of leadership groups to work meaningfully with young people.

What's Next for Hands Up Mallee

In the Mildura LGA a key barrier to social participation and connection for youth is access and involvement in decision making.

Hands Up Mallee will focus on building on co-design and pilot work to embed a practice of equity, access, and decision making to shift and change the way that new and existing publicly owned and managed community assets, resources, policies, and relationships are working to increase participation, reduce social isolation and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for young people and children.

Appendix 1 – HUM Theory of Change



Appendix 2 – Evaluation Methodology

Purpose

The purpose of evaluating this project was to:

- Demonstrate progress towards intended outcomes
- Capture learnings to inform future action and improvement

Scope

The scope of the evaluation includes:

- The co-design process
- The co-designed activation event
- The experience of youth, project partners and HUM team

Key Evaluation Questions

The following high level Key Evaluation Questions (KEQ) were selected from the HUM 9-18 Nested MEL Framework to support the evaluation of this project:

KEQ 1. Impact – To what extent is our collaborative work achieving impact?

- What is changing for young people?
- What are the early signs of systemic change?
- To what extent is our collaborative work achieving equity?

KEQ 2. Effectiveness – To what extent are we effective in the implementation of our collaborative approach?

- How well are we working together?
- How well are we collaborating with partners and aligning effort and resources?

KEQ 3. Community-led- To what extent is our work led by community, particularly young people?

- To what extent are young people's ideas, aspirations and needs guiding our work?
- To what extent is our work guided by an equity and inclusion lens?

KEQ 4. To what extent are our learnings and insights used to improve our collaborative work?

- What are the key learnings from our collaborative work?

Theory of Change

A Theory of Change (TOC) outlines the outcomes that are sought or expected, as well as the guiding principles, opportunities, signs of early and intermediate change and what these are enabled by.

The approach and evaluation of this project is guided and informed by:

- Hands Up Mallee Overarching Theory of Change (Appendix 1)
- Hands Up Mallee 9-18 Nested MEL and TOC
- Red Cliffs Half Basketball Court Youth Project TOC (Appendix 3)

Evaluation Tools

- Reflection, activity and observation logs
- Counts and participation data
- Feedback, workshop reflections and observations
- Surveys
- Local media, film and social media

Appendix 3 – Project Theory of Change

