Through the lens of community

Inclusive, Useable and Accessible Measurement, Evaluation & Learning with cross-sector partners, families & youth.

Fiona Merlin, Hands Up Mallee & Froukje Jongsma, Clear Horizon, AES Conference 2023

HANDS UP MALLEE

Clear Horizon

Agenda

Inclusive, usable and accessible ways to develop and use MEL

- Collaboratively build a MEL Framework

- Collective approaches to creating nested MELs

- Participatory mini-MELs for ongoing measurement, evaluation & learning

HUM 0-8 Nested TOC Workshop
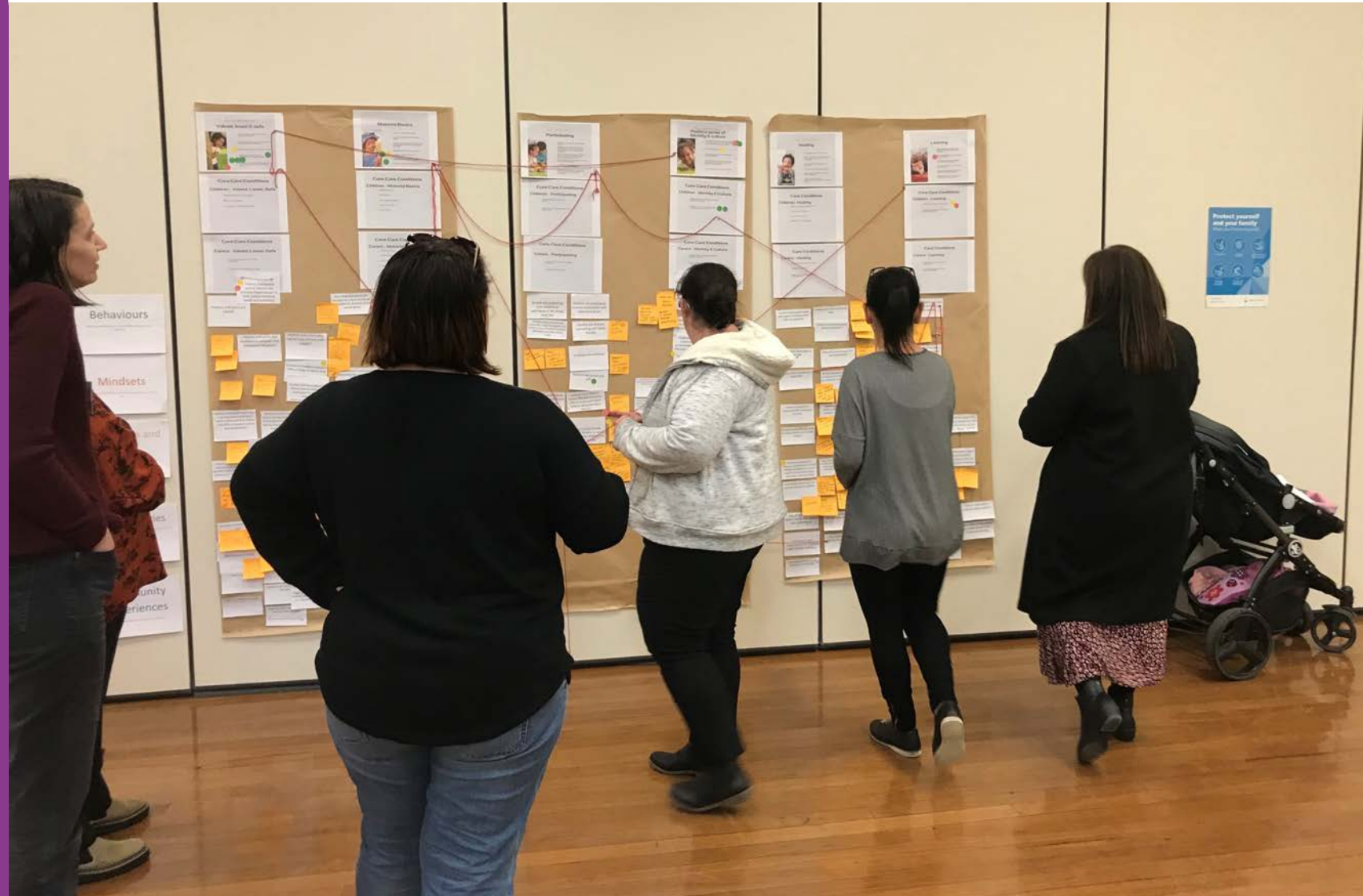
Two important realisations

A MEL Framework is vital

.

It needs to be informed by:

The expertise and aspirations of our community.

Relevant research findings.

Local data insights.

What a MEL Framework offers

1. Supports navigating from small-scale to population level changes

2. Embeds measurement, evaluation & learning into all work

3. Creates a line of sight

Elements of the overarching MEL Framework
and the importance of collaboration for it to be inclusive, useable, and accessible
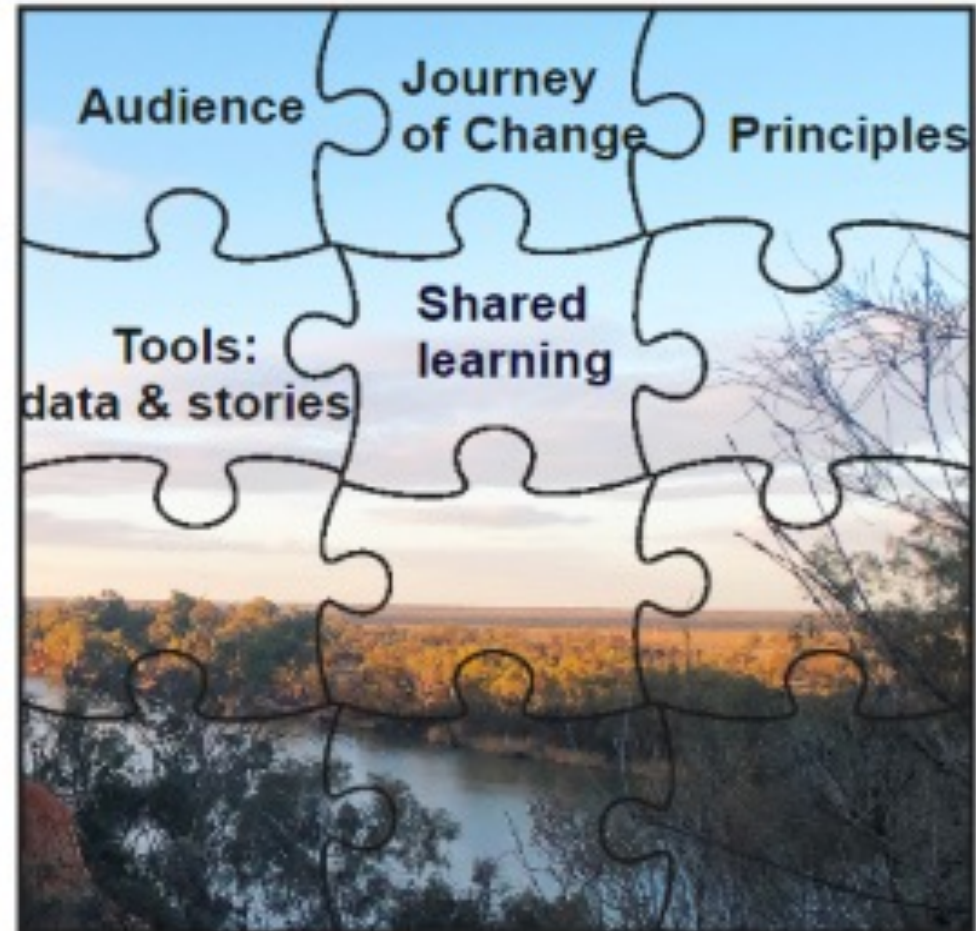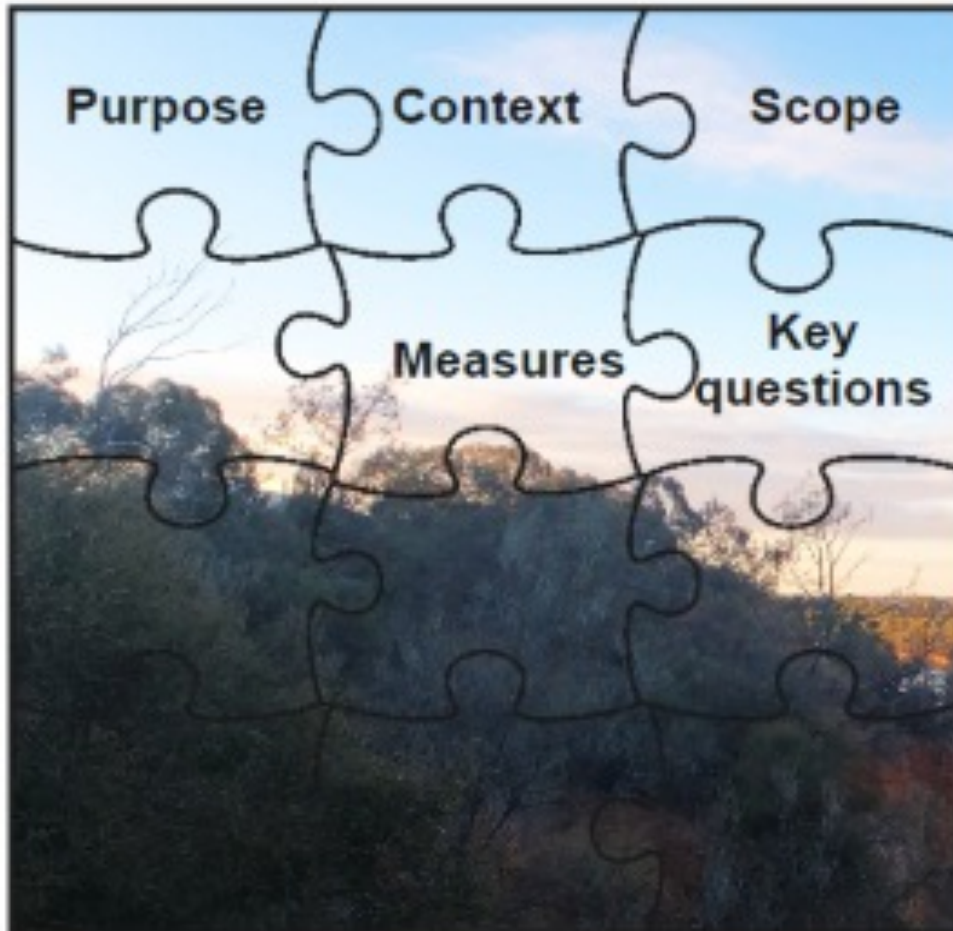
How We Co-Designed the HUM MEL FRamework

Gathering Participants:
Hands Up Mallee

Collaborating with experts:
Clear Horizon

Overarching MEL Framework

Overarching Theory of Change

Key Evaluation Questions

A Set of Principles

MEL Reporting and Learning Rhythm

Making lasting change for community at the population level:
A connected community where families matter, and children thrive

Early instances of impact

Changes we are making within the system

What helps to change the way we work together:
our enabling conditions and approach

What we had at the start of the journey:
Our foundations

The challenge and opportunity that inspired our shared journey

HUM MEL Framework – Clear Horizon

Overarching Journey of Change

Keeping an eye on the Community Aspiration and how we will achieve this as a collective

Adopted ARACY's NEST Outcomes

A connected community where families matter, and children thrive

People feel connected to their community & culture, safe & supported in expressing identity, included & accepted, there is an absence of racism, and we value diversity

Phase 5: Achieving transformational change

We want children and young people will thrive in 6 well being domains (ARACY). We will measure change for community-based on community experiences and what population data tells us

Making lasting change for community at the population level

Early instances of impact for children, families and community
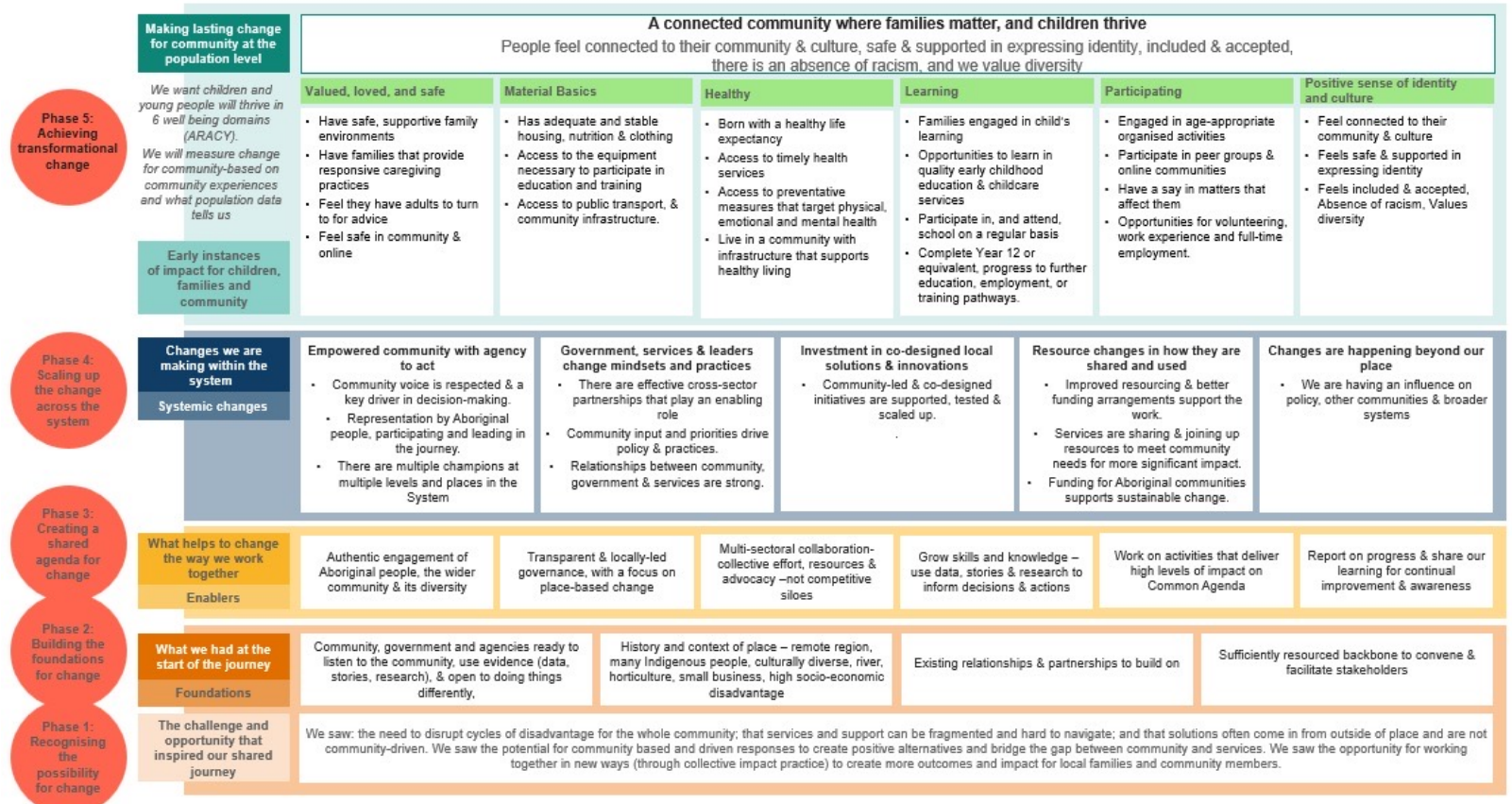
Valued, loved, and safe	Material Basics	Healthy	Learning	Participating	Positive sense of identity and culture
• Have safe, supportive family environments • Have families that provide responsive caregiving practices • Feel they have adults to turn to for advice • Feel safe in community & online	• Has adequate and stable housing, nutrition & clothing • Access to the equipment necessary to participate in education and training • Access to public transport, & community infrastructure.	• Born with a healthy life expectancy • Access to timely health services • Access to preventative measures that target physical, emotional and mental health • Live in a community with infrastructure that supports healthy living	• Families engaged in child's learning • Opportunities to learn in quality early childhood education & childcare services • Participate in, and attend, school on a regular basis • Complete Year 12 or equivalent, progress to further education, employment, or training pathways.	• Engaged in age-appropriate organised activities • Participate in peer groups & online communities • Have a say in matters that affect them • Opportunities for volunteering, work experience and full-time employment.	• Feel connected to their community & culture • Feels safe & supported in expressing identity • Feels included & accepted, Absence of racism, Values diversity

Phase 4: Scaling up the change across the system

Changes we are making within the system

Systemic changes

Empowered community with agency to act	Government, services & leaders change mindsets and practices	Investment in co-designed local solutions & innovations	Resource changes in how they are shared and used	Changes are happening beyond our place
• Community voice is respected & a key driver in decision-making. • Representation by Aboriginal people, participating and leading in the journey. • There are multiple champions at multiple levels and places in the System	• There are effective cross-sector partnerships that play an enabling role • Community input and priorities drive policy & practices. • Relationships between community, government & services are strong.	• Community-led & co-designed initiatives are supported, tested & scaled up.	• Improved resourcing & better funding arrangements support the work. • Services are sharing & joining up resources to meet community needs for more significant impact. • Funding for Aboriginal communities supports sustainable change.	• We are having an influence on policy, other communities & broader systems

Phase 3: Creating a shared agenda for change

What helps to change the way we work together

Enablers

Authentic engagement of Aboriginal people, the wider community & its diversity	Transparent & locally-led governance, with a focus on place-based change	Multi-sectoral collaboration-collective effort, resources & advocacy –not competitive siloes	Grow skills and knowledge – use data, stories & research to inform decisions & actions	Work on activities that deliver high levels of impact on Common Agenda	Report on progress & share our learning for continual improvement & awareness

Phase 2: Building the foundations for change

What we had at the start of the journey

Foundations

Community, government and agencies ready to listen to the community, use evidence (data, stories, research), & open to doing things differently,	History and context of place – remote region, many Indigenous people, culturally diverse, river, horticulture, small business, high socio-economic disadvantage	Existing relationships & partnerships to build on	Sufficiently resourced backbone to convene & facilitate stakeholders

Phase 1: Recognising the possibility for change

The challenge and opportunity that inspired our shared journey

We saw: the need to disrupt cycles of disadvantage for the whole community; that services and support can be fragmented and hard to navigate; and that solutions often come in from outside of place and are not community-driven. We saw the potential for community based and driven responses to create positive alternatives and bridge the gap between community and services. We saw the opportunity for working together in new ways (through collective impact practice) to create more outcomes and impact for local families and community members.

HUM MEL Framework – Clear Horizon

MEL Advisory Lenses

Useful to reflect on and grow our MEL capabilities

Collaboration is our #1 Lens

HUM

More than one MEL

Overarching
High-level

Nested MEL

Mini MELs

HIGH-LEVEL

High Level MEL Framework measures 10 to 15 Year Outcomes

0 – 8 Years
Children & Families

9 – 18 Years
Young People & Youth
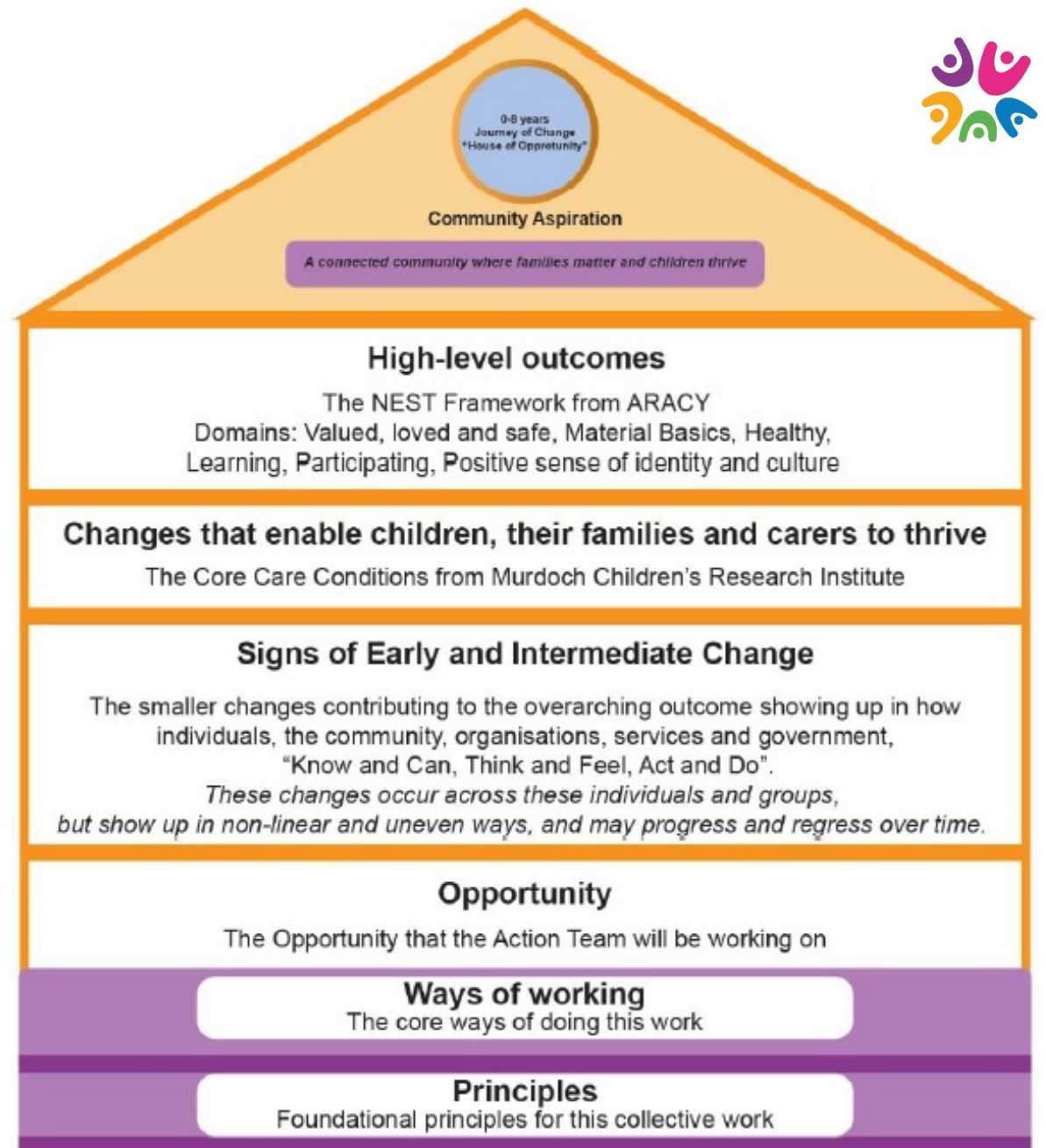
Nested MEL Frameworks measure
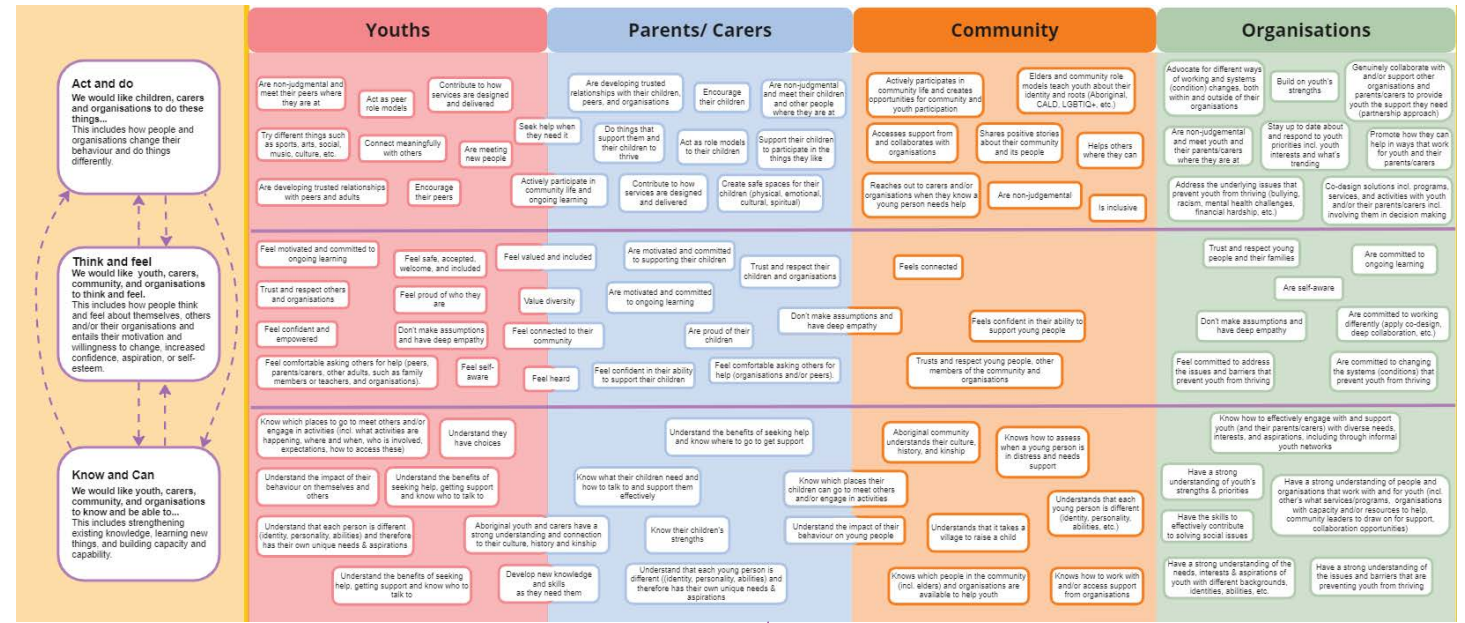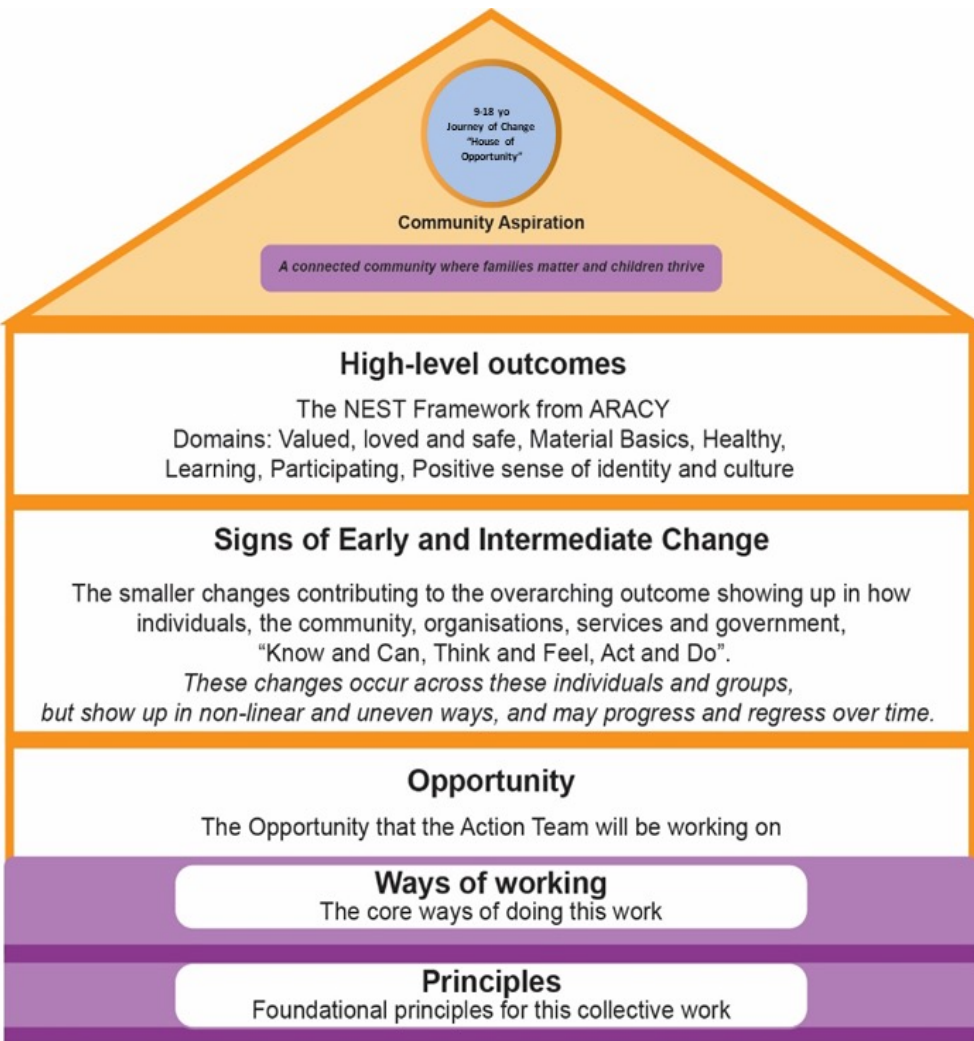
5 Year Outcomes

Preparing Nested MELs through discovery

0-8 Nested MEL Story of Change

Includes layer of enabling Core Care Conditions For Children and Families

Dr Tim Moore, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Core Care Conditions

0-8 years
Journey of Change
"House of Opportunity"

Community Aspiration

A connected community where families matter and children thrive

High-level outcomes

The NEST Framework from ARACY
Domains: Valued, loved and safe, Material Basics, Healthy, Learning, Participating, Positive sense of identity and culture

Changes that enable children, their families and carers to thrive

The Core Care Conditions from Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Signs of Early and Intermediate Change

The smaller changes contributing to the overarching outcome showing up in how individuals, the community, organisations, services and government, "Know and Can, Think and Feel, Act and Do".
These changes occur across these individuals and groups, but show up in non-linear and uneven ways, and may progress and regress over time.

Opportunity

The Opportunity that the Action Team will be working on

Ways of working
The core ways of doing this work

Principles
Foundational principles for this collective work

HUM Nested MEL Framework 0-8 Years – Clear Horizon

We created a menu that includes the building blocks for creating mini-ToCs

9-18 Nested Theory of Change building blocks

HANDS UP MALLEE

Youth-Led Consultation & Discovery Sessions

Youth Input into a Theory of Change

How did this ensure that the MEL Framework use is inclusive accessible and useable?

Keeping it collaborative
Participatory approaches to evaluation and learning

Creating mini MELs

Clarifies purpose and scope

Encourages better design of actions

Prepares evidence collection along the way

Favourite Participatory Evaluation Tools

Journey Mapping

Feelings, Thinking

Bright Spots, Hot Spots

Gives, Gets

What Changed, Learnings

What next?

Favourite Participatory Evaluation Tools

Most Significant Learning

Most Significant Change

Most Significant Change Template

Most Significant Learning

Evaluation Tools– Clear Horizon

Evaluating: better together

- Learning from external evaluation reports

- Internal evaluation reports and videos

- Using mini-MEL planning templates

- Reporting & elevating learnings each quarter

RICH HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT PROJECT
EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared for Hands Up Mallee

18 May 2022

HANDS UP MALLEE

Clear Horizon

Fun in the Park

2022 pilot evaluation

HANDS UP MALLEE A connected community where families matter and children thrive

HUM

Through the lens of community

- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Useable

- People supporting people
  - Participatory approaches
  - Shared language
  - Relationships strengthened

- Growing appetite for evaluation as a way of working

- Ongoing skill building with cross-sector partners & community

- Testing findings with partners & community increases validation of reports

- Increased community ownership & accountability to community

You can find out more about Clear Horizon at the AES 2023 Conference booth or contact us at:

Froukje Jongsma
She/her
Principal Consultant: Social Impact
Clear Horizon
froukje@*clearhorizon.org.au*

STAY CONNECTED & KEEP LEARNING

Clear Horizon

Join our Community

clearhorizon.circle.so

Clear Horizon ACADEMY

Enrol in a Course

clearhorizonacademy.com

track to change™

Book a demo

tracktochange.com

Thank-you

Resources are available at the Clear Horizon booth

You can find out more about Hands Up Mallee or contact us at:

Fiona Merlin
She/Her
Measurement, Evaluation & Learning Coordinator

fiona.merlin@*mildura.vic.gov.au*

www.handsupmallee.com

hello@handsupmallee.com

@handsupmallee