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A vital community asset is recognised

NORTHERN Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC) has featured in a study showing the broader economic and social value of local community service organisations.

An Ernst and Young report, commissioned by NSW Council of Social Service, investigated the broader value organisations such as NRSDC have to their communities.

The development council was one of three case studies in the report, which found traditional economic valuations often overlook significant non-financial resources such as volunteers and the creation

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of broader economic and social value.

NRSDC chief executive Tony Davies said the findings had widely been known in the sector, but the new report proves total value creation using rigorous economic analysis.

“We get to see the value of

our work every day, however, to have it recognised through an economic analysis framework is really important,” he said.

The report found local community service organisations provided an additional 46% in value, with

an estimated 92c for every dollar of grant or operating profit remaining within the local economy.

Among key findings, the report showed investment in organisations such as NRSDC yielded significant economic benefits, that the organisations were often significant employers, that free or discounted community facilities boosted community well-being and that volunteers shared their skills with the wider community.

Organisations also boast keen local knowledge about local social issues, allowing smarter investment within communities.



Northern Rivers Social Development Council has been lauded in a new NSW Council of Social Service report. PHOTO: NRSDC