

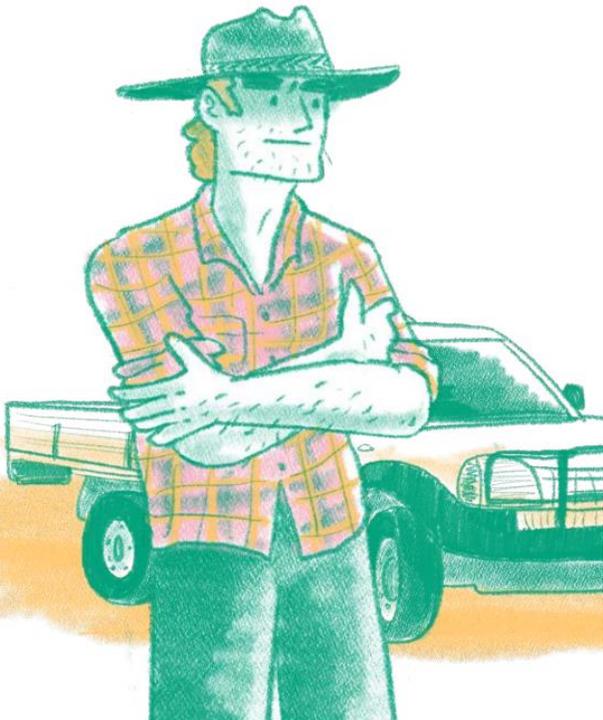
Acknowledgement of Country



- ▶ *Our work takes place through the lands of the Aboriginal nations within Victoria and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. Bunjil's lore states that those who walk on this land must care for the Country and waterways as well as care for the children and young people. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land.*

Overview.

- ▶ Background to YACVic and our Work in Disasters and Young People
- ▶ Overview, design and operational elements of Future Proof
- ▶ Some insights and findings from ACCO,s included in our Future Proof Project
- ▶ Opportunities from using Collective Impact models.
- ▶ What we are planning with our Centre Of Excellence in COE
- ▶ Use Young Peoples quotes through-out the presentation.
- ▶ Opportunities to Collaborate going forward



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- ▶ YACVic Rural is a core agency of Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic), the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria.
- ▶ Our vision is that the rights of young people in Victoria are respected, and they are active, visible and valued in their communities.

Following the Black Summer Bushfires of 2019 & 2020

Youth Focused Disaster Recovery Protocol

A Seat at the Table: Young People and Disaster Recovery

Speaking Up: Young people's experience of Bushfire and Recovery

Rural Young Activators 2020/2021

Future Proof: Young People, Disaster Recovery and (Re)building Communities 2022/2024

Umbrella: Flood Response 2022/2023

Helping children and adolescents

- ▶ Sometimes we don't discuss stressful situations with children and adolescents because we don't want to worry them. However, children and adolescents usually pick up on when you are stressed and know when things aren't right, particularly if they witness their parents, guardians, teachers, community upset or arguing. Not knowing what's going on can make them worry and they may blame themselves for what's happening.
- ▶ It's important to include children and adolescents in discussions about the situation and involve them in decision-making as much as possible. Help them to understand their responsibilities (e.g. concentrating at school, doing homework, helping at home, in the community) and reassure them that, although things are tough, you will get through it together.
- ▶ Talk to them about their feelings and notice any changes in their behavior or mood that may indicate that they are feeling stressed.

LifeLine: Support Toolkit Natural Disasters.

<https://toolkit.lifeline.org.au/topics/natural-disasters/help-for-natural-disasters>

“Involving young people in recovery because it doesn’t just make the program better, it makes the community stronger, because young people really feel like they have had a voice in their recovery and that is the most important thing. I think that I have found, having a voice in recovery has helped my own personal recovery from what happened. Through the working group, just bringing more light to it”

Young Person, Bright VIC



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Youth participation actively involves young people in decision-making processes on issues that affect them

Examples include young people:

- being consulted about their ideas and opinions.
- researching issues that affect their lives.
- planning or leading community activities or events.
- taking part in youth committees or action groups.
- taking part in adult-defined decision-making bodies.





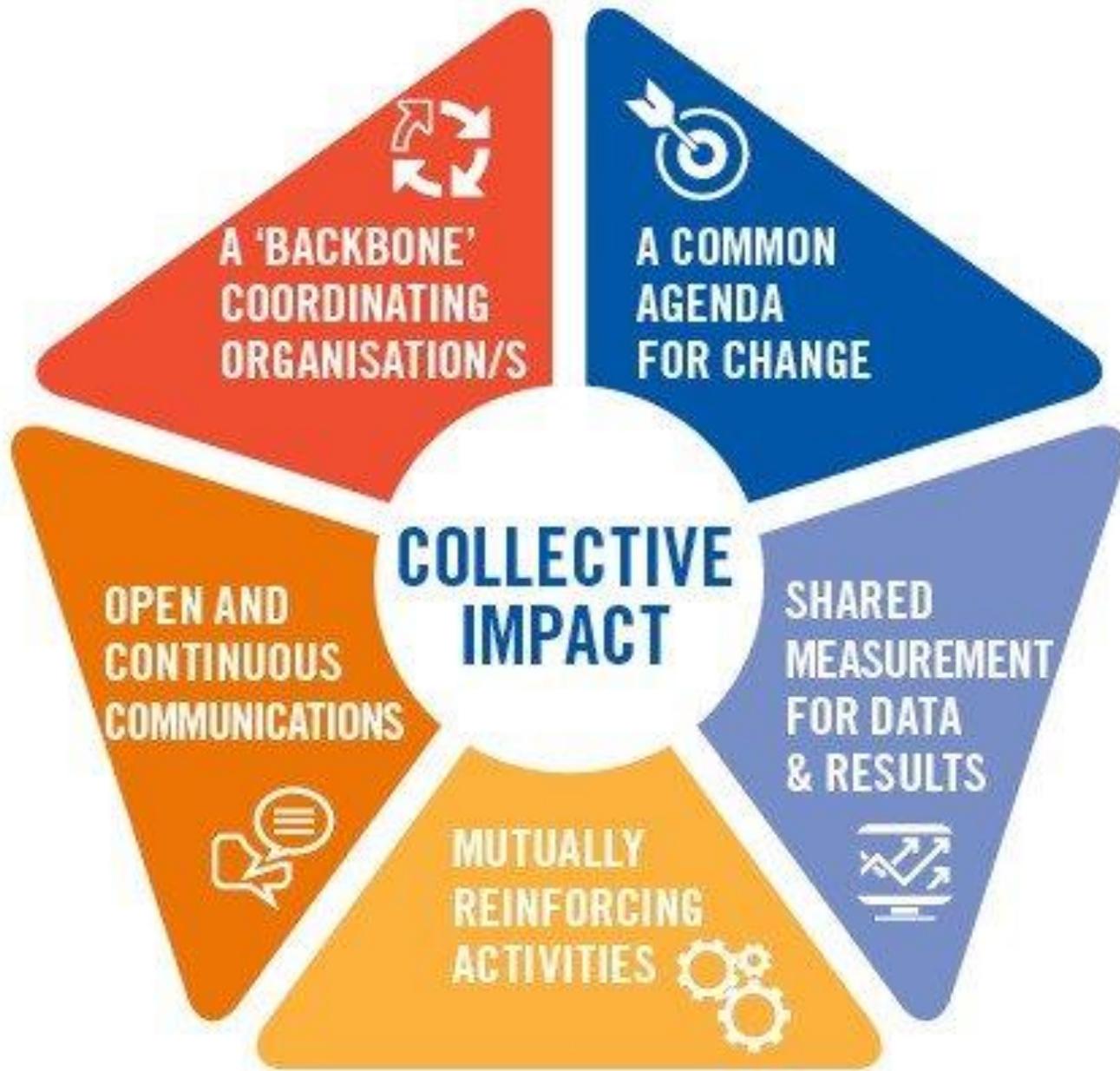
'Future Proof': Young People, Disaster Recovery and (Re)building Communities

This collective impact project, led by YACVic:

- ▶ Brings together eight LGA Councils, two Aboriginal CCOs, Victoria University and two LLENs.
- ▶ Drives locally-led recovery outcomes for fire-affected young people and communities.
- ▶ Is place-based, networked, flexible, and uses youth work principles to support, train and connect young people, and involve them in youth-led recovery projects and community decision-making.
- ▶ Supports qualifications attainment and industry linkages for youth jobs in emergency management and community services.
- ▶ Evidence into practice



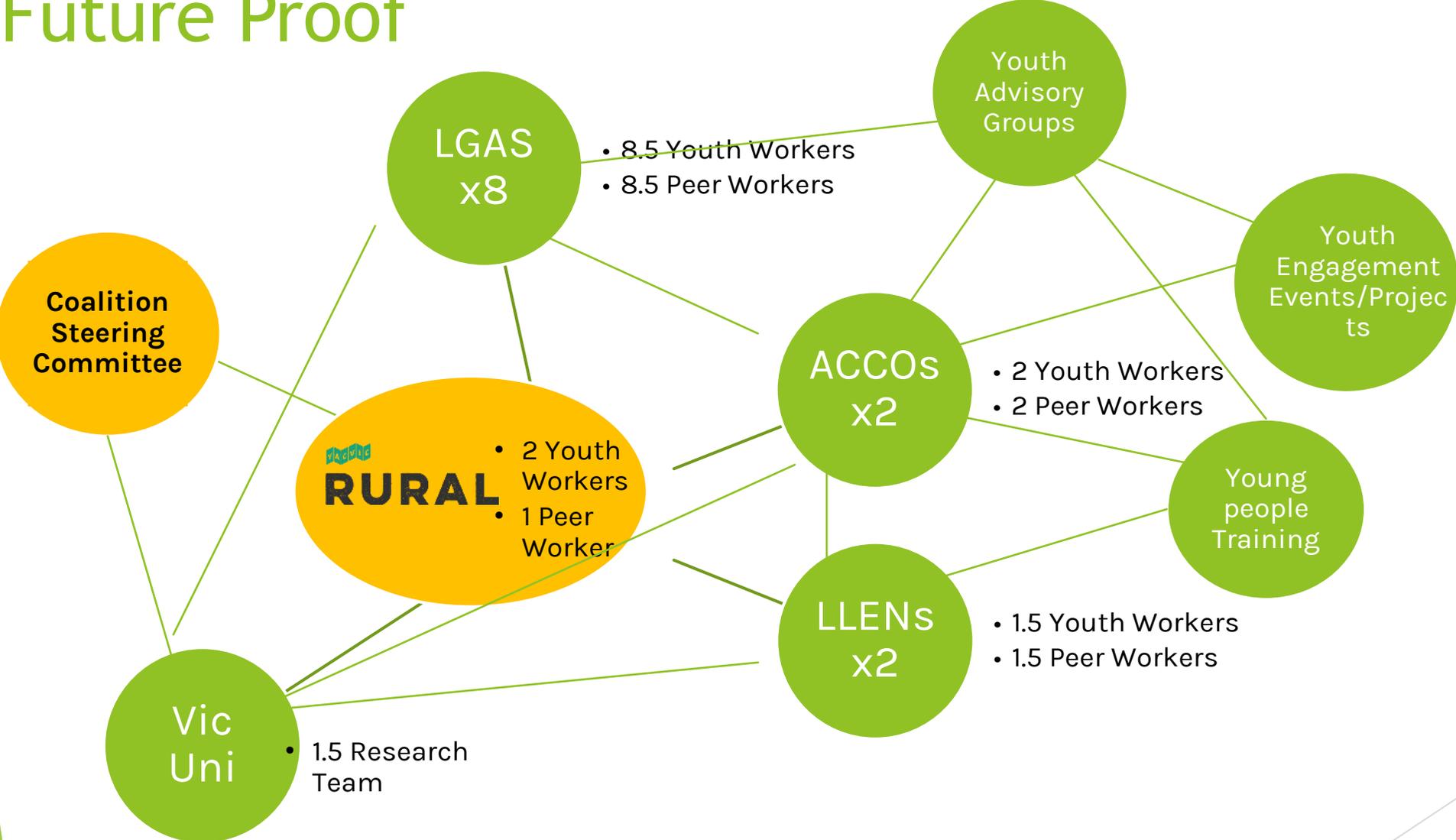
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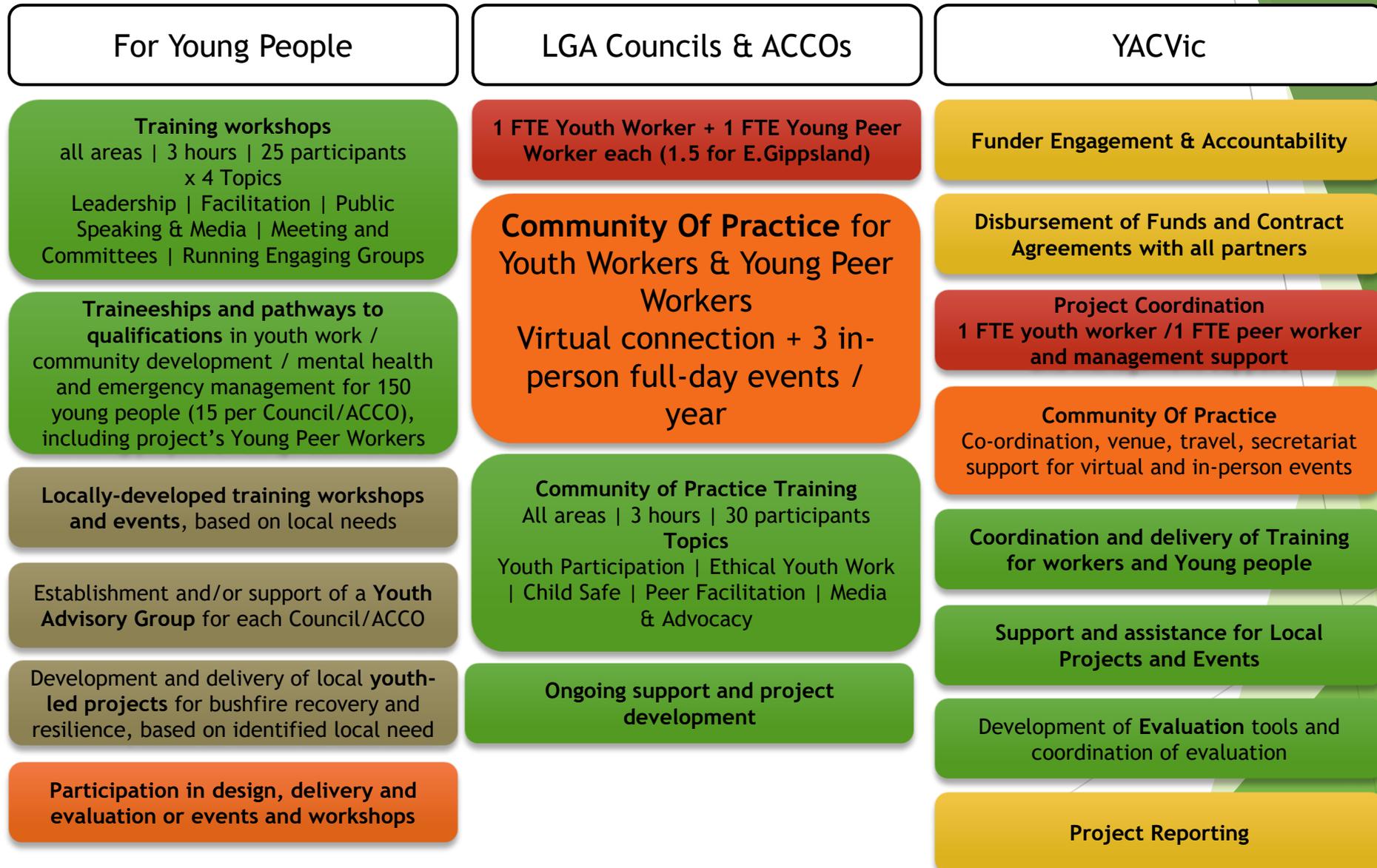
- ▶ “Stop asking us to think outside the box, when we don’t know what the box is.” – **Quinn Obran, Corryong**



Future Proof



Black Summer Grant - Deliverables



Elevating and Centering the Lived Experience of Young People

LGA/NGO/ACCO

Youth Worker and Peer Worker work with young people to build a Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

YAG

Young people are supported in developing and co-designing locally led outcomes related to bushfire and disaster recovery

Put young people at the center of bushfire recovery efforts, ensuring they are supported in their own recovery, AND that their unique perspectives and ability to contribute are recognised, valued and utilised for community recovery.

Show young people that they are valued as active contributors in their communities, strengthening connection and community ties, and leading to local service and leadership by young people.

One of our challenges moving forward with our disaster work will be how to authentically involve young people, in community as part of the research team. Where they are not just co-designing the projects and research but also being researchers and where we are training them in how to conduct research as part of our future projects.

Community focus



Place-based - locally lead initiatives



Community of Practice

A supportive space coordinated and organized by YACVic for each of the partners. Specifically for their Youth Workers and Peer Workers to gather and share knowledge, as well as opportunities for training and upskilling.

Six CoP over the life of the project, all held in communities, over three days

Peer learning space and connection



Regular catch-ups for Youth Workers Peer Workers and Managers - creating a space to learn from each other and what they're doing in their communities

Objectives as the Future Proof Youth Coalition Steering Committee?



To oversee the Future Proof project in its design elements, delivery and how it will be communicated externally



Provide a youth perspective on the work of the project to ensure it is authentically youth lead



Joining Carla and Sneha when we speak at conferences or other events about the project



Being a media spokesperson for the project



Joining us at a Community of Practice if it's in your area/close to you



Reviewing reports, press releases and anything that we create that will be sent out to talk about the project!

All things training..



- **Local Training for Youth Workers** - what will be beneficial for your local youth workers

Eg, Youth Participation, Code of Ethical practice, child safe standards, trauma informed practice, MH First aid

- **Training for young people in your region** - must be identified by young people. Some options are available from YACVic

Eg, Peer Facilitation, Leadership, Advocacy, Project Management, Running Engaging Groups and Events, Public Speaking & Media, event management.

- **Training at the CoP**

Youth Participation, Code of Ethical practice, Child Safe standards, Event management

ACCO Data

- 1) ACCOs/services' jurisdictions overlap geographically with LGA partners – creates challenges/competition with funding and project deliverables being based on each individual partner's outputs (i.e. challenges with access where there are pre-existing relationships with schools etc.) Opportunity to embed working collectively from the beginning, and/or specialising (i.e. ACCOs bringing cultural lens to the efforts with schools/young people);
- 2) the value of the cultural lens that ACCOs can/could provide to all partners – while we haven't maximised that in Future Proof, it was an idea shared by both AWAHS and other partners . (Core example is in LGAs where it is unsafe for young people to identify). This is important work that isn't a part of deliverables or recognised in current funding model so where it has been happening, it hasn't been formally recognised or compensated. Potential solution is that ACCOs are not partners akin to LGAs, but 'expert' partners (our language not theirs) working with other LGA partners in their region to support cultural safety and participation for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander folk in all settings and to share Indigenous knowledge practices;

ACCO Data /continued

3. The need for cultural relevance and flexibility in funding guidelines and project design – i.e. Indigenous young people’s desire for Indigenous knowledge practices (such as cultural burning), rather than formalised ‘training’ such as Cert IV in emergency management;
- 4) Future Proof has enabled Moogji/AWAHS to focus on young people and establish youth reference groups of some form (where their services/activities haven’t always been focused on working with young people); and
- 5) Partners wanted more focus on cultural safety and Indigenous cultural knowledge for their own professional development in Future Proof. Key example is the ‘cultural awareness training’ that participants enjoyed but some were disappointed that it didn’t foreground Indigenous experiences or knowledge.

"I hear a lot of adults saying 'what young people need is' but there is not a lot of opportunities for them to be involved or say what they want"

Young Person, Orbost

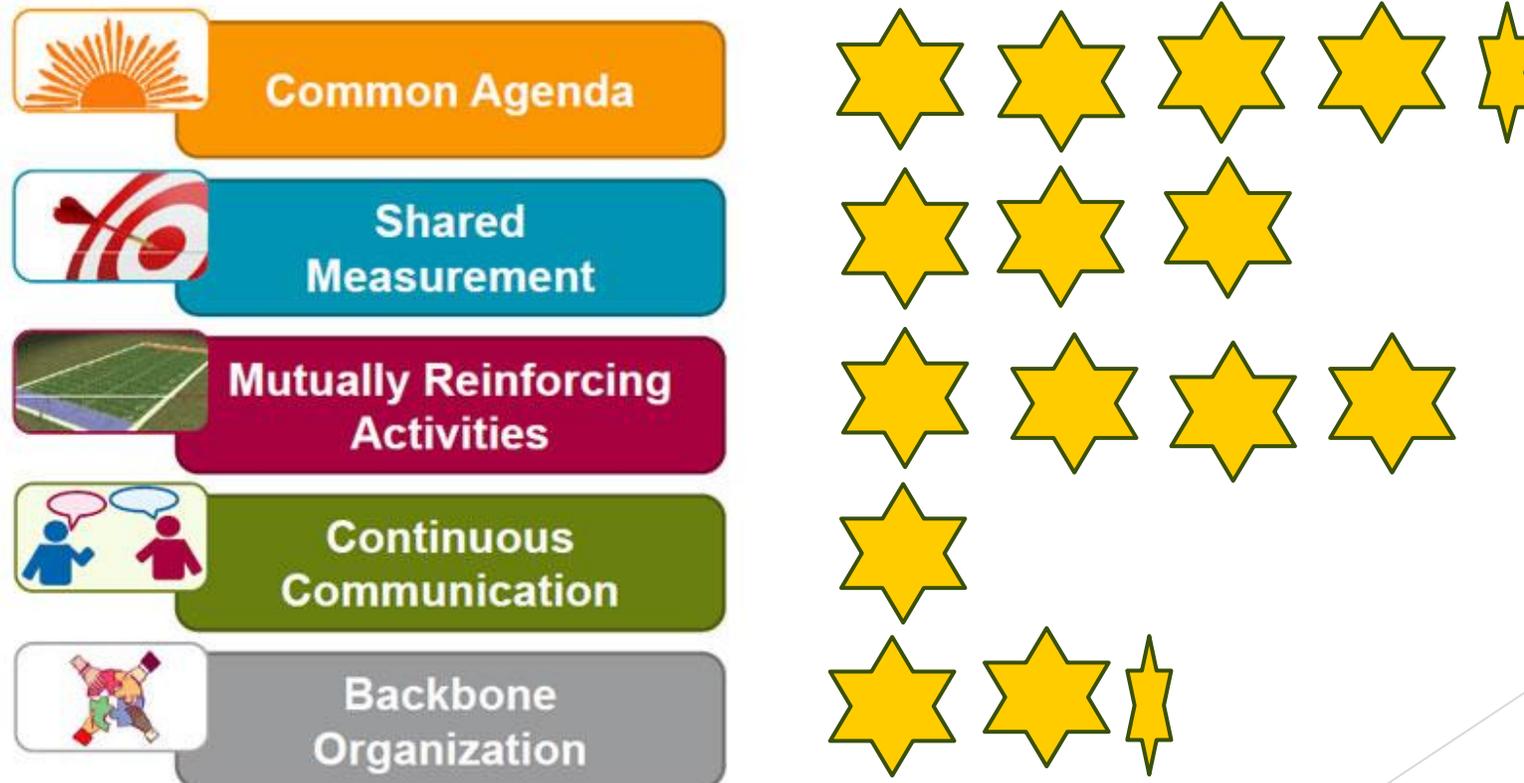


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Assessing Future Proof against the Five Conditions needed for Collective Impact

Five Conditions for Collective Impact



Centre of Excellence: Young People & Disasters

The Centre of Excellence - Young People and Disasters ('The Centre') is a partnership between Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) and Victoria University's (VU) Youth and Community Research group. The Centre of Excellence will bring together expertise around young people (15-24 years), youth participation and disasters.

It will be a hub undertaking research and knowledge translation in evidence-based, innovative approaches to involving young people as active agents in disaster prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and community resilience building.



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Centre of Excellence: Young People & Disasters

The Centre will be a clearing house for knowledge and resources on capacity building, policy and advocacy-based approaches to young people and disasters.

The Centre will champion place-based approaches that prioritise local community responses to disasters.

The Centre acknowledges the impact of climate change on disasters and the disproportionate impact that climate change has on young people and their futures.

It is envisaged that the Centre's work can contribute to strengthening the capacity of relevant emergency and disaster organisations to engage and/or to see the potential of working with young people.

The Centre will take a proactive stance in advocating for the rights and wellbeing of all young people to be actively involved in issues that affect them and their future



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Centre of Excellence: Young People & Disasters

- ▶ We're currently in the process of establishing the role and approach of the Centre, and we have developed an overview of our vision and key areas to focus on.

We would love your feedback on this overview, as well as what you see the role of the Centre being in the future.

- ▶ Link here and QR code attached:
https://vuau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eGb4NeFNTQgEEpE
- ▶ **Complete the survey** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DKM5MLH>
- ▶ If you would like to have a longer discussion with us about this new initiative, please email Derm Ryan dryan@yacvic.org.au with Centre Of Excellence in the subject line and one of the team will respond to you in late January.



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“Young people know what’s going on but get shut down. It’s even harder when you don’t have access to social networks i.e., under 12.” – **Young Person, Orbost**



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“Young people aren’t just important for our community’s future, they’re important for our present. That’s a silver lining that all disaster-affected communities can all take from the immense challenges we have faced over the past 18 months” – **Young Person, Corryong**



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“We want it known that the biggest hurdles we face are bureaucratic. We can get a lot more done with less bureaucracy. Why is there a need for so much paperwork?” – **Young Person, Mallacoota**



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Useful Links

- ▶ Links to the resources can be found
- ▶ <https://www.yacvic.org.au/rural/disaster-hub/>
- ▶ [yacvic.org.au/rural/bushfire-recovery](https://www.yacvic.org.au/rural/bushfire-recovery)

- ▶ And of course, you can find us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok via **@yacvic**

Questions and Contacts ??

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