



# Imagined Futures Annual Story

**2021**

Innovative thinking, collaborative working.



# Contents

<b>Chapter One: Breaking Down Silos</b>	<b>4</b>
The problem _____	5
Thinking differently _____	6
<b>Chapter Two: Imagined Futures</b>	<b>7</b>
Why Imagined Futures? _____	8
Our Collective Impact Model _____	10
Our people _____	15
<b>Chapter Three: 2021 in Action</b>	<b>18</b>
What has Imagined Futures delivered? _____	19
Where is the Door? Project Case Study _____	21
Youth Initiative _____	22
Mental Health Initiative _____	28
Community Initiative _____	33
Housing & Homelessness Initiative _____	38
<b>Chapter Four: Looking Forward</b>	<b>42</b>
Directions for 2022 _____	43
Thank you _____	44

CHAPTER ONE

# Breaking Down Silos



## The problem

**Human services are traditionally delivered in an isolated way, targeting specific issues or groups.**

There is a rising tide of people experiencing crisis, such as homelessness, family and domestic violence and mental health problems. While there is a lot we can celebrate about our approach to human services in Western Australia, the complex, sometimes messy problems that individuals, families and communities face don't fit neatly into discrete service systems.

It is important that we continue to support people in need however we must find different ways of working together to turn this trend around. The impacts of the pandemic and the increasing demand for community services has created a pressing need for innovation. We believe the only way to effect large-scale change is by mobilising the collective resources of our community.

# Thinking differently

## How do we make it happen?

The WA State Government acknowledged in its 2019 Sustainable Health Review that 'change is inextricably linked to creating purposeful partnerships with people, communities, industry and the non-government sector, and between levels of government to address the myriad of factors that are essential to health and wellbeing. These partnerships must be based on shared objectives and common purpose, new levels of trust and respect, and formal sharing of risks and benefits.'

This is not the first high level government plan or review to echo the need for joined approaches. We have a consensus on what should happen. The challenge is now how we make it happen. This is where Imagined Futures comes in.

CHAPTER TWO

# Imagined Futures



# Why Imagined Futures?

## A collective impact approach to solving complex issues.

Established in 2014, the Imagined Futures (IF) partnership uses a collective impact approach that brings together government (federal, state and local), not-for-profits, businesses, philanthropists and community members to address complex social issues in Cockburn, Fremantle, and Melville. We recognise that tackling complex social issues is beyond the capacity of any single organisation. The only way to effect large-scale change is to work together and mobilise resources available in our community to achieve shared goals.

## Uniquely positioned for holistic change.

Recognised by the state government as the District Leadership Group for the South West Metropolitan Region, Imagined Futures is auspiced by St Patrick's Community Support Centre (St Pat's) and attracts a blend of financial and in-kind contributions, including funding from: state government, local government, Lotterywest, grants and members. This gives Imagined Futures the ability to act on behalf of the region while being able to leverage opportunities available to the not-for-profit sector.

## A proven track record of impact.

Imagined Futures has a proven track record of accomplishment bringing a new way of working, fostering collaboration beyond information exchange and focusing on strategy, action and implementation. Our approach is informed by collective impact principles with over 30 different stakeholder groups represented in the Leadership Group alone.



**‘The outcomes speak for themselves. The approach has not only allowed the shared goals of the IF group to be achieved, but also those of individual member organisations and community members in the process.’**

Member of the Leadership Group



## **Our mission**

To mobilise the collective resources of not-for-profits, local, state and federal government agencies, business and community members to provide individuals and families in the South West Metropolitan region with the opportunity to enjoy quality of life.



## **Our vision**

All South West Metropolitan families and individuals have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.



## **Our values**

All parties are committed to achieving a coordinated approach to delivering human services and recognise partnerships are based on mutual trust, respect and transparency. All are committed to improving social, cultural and economic outcomes in the South West Metropolitan region.



**‘The willingness of organisations to adopt the ethic and philosophies of collaboration is critical, but at the end of the day without the active support and coordination of a backbone, it was unlikely to achieve the outcomes that it has in practice. The modest investment in the backbone has been key to its success, and the return on investment has been very significant indeed.’**

Member of Imagined Futures Leadership Group

## **Our Collective Impact Model**

The Imagined Futures model uses a ‘multi-pronged’ approach to tackling complex community and social issues. The model is separated into four priorities to partner, advocate, connect and trial (PACT).

### **What is collective impact?**

It is a structured form of collaboration, reflective of a commitment from a group of different stakeholders across a community to a common agenda for solving social problems. Unlike most collaborations, collective impact initiatives have a formal infrastructure and meet key criteria: dedicated staff, use a structured process that leads to a common agenda, shared measurement, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing activities amongst participants.

### **How does this meet community needs?**

It provides a mechanism to unlock the power that exists in the community by harnessing collective knowledge and resources and translating them into effective action.

## How does the Imagined Futures model work?



### **Partner**

We foster information sharing and strong relationships to develop joint responses and target resources.



### **Advocate**

We take opportunities to raise awareness of community needs, emerging issues, priorities, service gaps and alternatives with the community sector, government, the public and businesses.



### **Connect**

We optimise opportunities to access funding to deliver collective place based projects that tackle complex issues.



### **Trial**

We test new and innovative service delivery models and ways of working.



**‘There have been a wide range of benefits: stronger relationships and communications between human service agencies both government and non-government; a greater inclination to collaborate on both issues and opportunities rather than separately or indeed competitively; a greater propensity to share information, resources and support each other; and conversely a lesser inclination to replicate or overlap where a better outcome can be achieved by collaborating or support the efforts of others.’**

Member of Imagined Futures Leadership Group

## **What are the benefits of this model?**

Benefits can be as simple as brokering the connection of partners looking to improve the service they are providing for a community member, or as complex as implementing new programs delivered by multiple providers to ensure maximum impact for the wider community.

The Imagined Futures partnership seeks to build on established relationships, maximise collective resources, engage with our community, leverage community strengths, be proactive and intervene early. These elements are essential for fostering conditions to deliver the partnership’s collective vision that all individuals and families have the opportunity to achieve their full potential in all areas of life.

## The power of place-based initiatives.

Place-based approaches recognise the unique challenges and resources each community has. Imagined Futures brings together different parts of the community to develop localised approaches to addressing those specific needs. Imagined Futures is based in the local community and is well positioned to maximise impact for the communities of Fremantle, Melville and Cockburn.



## Together our partnership works with the community, for the community.

The work delivered through our working groups is strategic and seeks to achieve deeper and sustained change. Through these projects we are testing what can happen when we pool our resources to step outside of traditional approaches to supporting our community to change how we work. Our collective impact projects have been established to focus on four priority areas:



### **Youth**

Contributing to improvements in engagement in school, socio-emotional resilience and overall wellbeing for students.



### **Community**

Partnering with the Davis Park residents to build social connection and foster a safer, more livable community.



### **Housing & Homelessness**

Supporting the state government's 10 Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030 with place-based interventions.



### **Mental Health**

Implementing a model proven to improve the treatment and care of people affected by depression.

## Our people

### A message from the Chair of Imagined Futures, Michael Piu.

**Imagined Futures isn't one person, or one organisation. Imagined Futures is the collective work of over 60 different partners.**

In a year that started with the 'Tent City' in Pioneer Park, Fremantle, and ended with the Accelerating Aboriginal Vaccination Drive, 2021 saw the Imagined Futures partnership demonstrate how it can respond quickly to coordinate efforts while continuing to deliver its strategic collective impact projects through its working groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge the community, and in turn those involved in providing support. I am particularly proud to note that these trying times have served to galvanise the Imagined Futures partnership even further.

It is clear how much the partnership has achieved together over the last year. This is testament to the breadth and depth of engagement of our partners. We continue to demonstrate that it is possible to leave logos at the door to work toward common objectives.


A unique feature of the Imagined Futures model is that the partnership has backbone support. Once again we've seen the importance of this role. It is an essential factor in our ability to move beyond coordination to deliver truly collaborative and impactful projects on the ground.





We are entering the 9th year since the Imagined Futures partnership was established. Over this time, relationships have been cemented and trust developed. It is hard to overstate the value of this foundation when working in a place-based way that seeks to deliver stronger outcomes for our communities than what could ever be delivered separately. The whole is definitely greater than the sum of its parts in the South West Metropolitan Region.

**Michael Piu, Chair**

## Meet the people collaborating for a better future.

### Our structure

 **Leadership group:** sets the strategic direction.

    **Working groups:** tests the delivery of doing things differently.



## Our membership

The breadth of our membership provides many different perspectives, our diversity means we can effect change and make things happen that would be beyond the capacity of any single organisation.

This includes being able to:

- Act and deliver quickly
- Think big picture to make the most impact
- Think creatively to collaborate, respond, pool resources and redirect efforts
- Trial different ways of working resulting in action
- Unite key players across government and non government sectors to deliver solutions
- Align social agendas and local responses

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The Imagined Futures Leadership Group has representatives from 31 different stakeholder groups:

2	Federal government agencies	17	Community sector organisations
5	State government agencies	1	Business
3	Local government authorities	1	Philanthropic organisation
1	Community member	1	Executive officer (backbone support)

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### Funding Sources

City of Cockburn, City of Fremantle,  
Department of Communities, Lotterywest (project)

CHAPTER THREE

# 2021 in Action



## **What has Imagined Futures delivered?**

**Reflecting on 2021, we demonstrated that our ability to respond rapidly and agilely to emerging issues was a key benefit of our collaborative model.**

The last few years have illustrated the need for swift collective solutions – 2021 was no exception. As the effects of COVID-19 continued into its second year, our partnership collaborated to respond, culminating in the Leadership Group coordinating the local approach to the Accelerating Aboriginal Vaccination Drive. We tried and tested multiple solutions through our working groups this year sharing resources, knowledge and securing funding to operationalise successful projects. Our success as a partnership in these challenging times shows the power of the collective.

**Our Leadership Group has continued to foster a strong culture of collaboration across the region sharing information and approaches to challenges.**

The Imagined Futures Leadership Group has been active in 2021 implementing a joint COVID-19 plan, securing grant funding and attracting donations for the backbone role, Where is the Door? Project and Alliance Against Depression. They have provided strategic oversight of the four working groups, maximised resources such as brokering co-location arrangements and built a profile across the Department of Communities and with local Members of Parliament.

**Via three sub-committees the Leadership Group:**

- Developed a framework for delivering collective approach to connecting people to available supports
  - Coordinated community interface for the Aboriginal Vaccination Drive led by WA Police
  - Sought to understand the implications for social housing of recent developments on the Davis Park community and across the region more broadly and to scope what options are available
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## Where is the Door? Project Case Study

**Soon after the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Imagined Futures Leadership Group mobilised quickly to guide a coordinated community response that would mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 across the South West Metropolitan region.**

The Where's the Door? Project was initiated by the Leadership Group who recognised that COVID-19 was impacting increasing numbers of vulnerable people new to hardship and who didn't know about available community support and services. The name of the project heralds from the idea that people often don't know where to begin looking for help.

A Lotterywest grant was received to support Imagined Futures to identify and test new ways of connecting vulnerable people to available supports, targeting the areas of mental health, family and domestic violence and financial hardship. The project included:

- Developing a community survey to better understand how people currently connect with community help or support and where they go to look for information
- Consulting with stakeholders in the Imagined Futures network and more widely

- Exploring other initiatives that have emerged since the project was first initiated including Anglicare's Friend in Need project
- A brief environmental scan towards informing a model for action

Imagined Futures is now using this work to develop a collective community engagement and capacity building approach, that puts people at the heart, and leverages off natural community connectors and supports, and the resources of our partnership. Imagined Futures is ideally placed to harness what's available and integrate the strategies with existing services and approaches where possible.

## Youth Initiative

**Young people who leave school early are at greater risk of experiencing long term unemployment, which can lead to social exclusion, welfare dependence, reduced life satisfaction and mental health concerns.**

There is a proven link between youth disengagement and heightened risk of a young person leaving school early, which leads to experiences of hardship in adulthood. Imagined Futures identified that there was a gap in service delivery targeted at the transition age of 8-12 years-old leading into the time when many young people become disengaged with school.

The impact of this disengagement is significant, with the social cost estimated to be \$616,000 over a young person's lifetime.

Imagined Futures has been working with at-risk young people within schools since 2014.

The focus of the Youth Initiative Working Group is delivering a range of activities designed to maintain engagement in school.



## Youth Initiative Working Group

### Purpose

To test a collective impact model to promote the capacity and agency of young people to help disrupt the cycle of disadvantage.

### Chair

Annette Boyle  
Uniting WA

### Funding Source

Lotterywest till June 30 2022

### Lead Agency Partners During 2020-21

#### Palmerston Association

Caralee Primary School  
Hilton Primary School  
*Supported by City of Fremantle  
and local businesses*

Lakeland High School  
Melville High School  
Fremantle High School  
*Supported by Headspace  
The Boxing Project  
WA Police Force  
and local businesses*

#### Fremantle Mind

South Lake Primary School  
*Supported by City of Cockburn  
Stephen Michaels Foundation  
and local businesses*

### Youth Initiative Membership

Reps from 22 agencies:

- 5** State government agencies
- 3** Local government authorities
- 13** Not-for-profit
- 1** Research institution



**‘The thing I love about this program is it helps me with my life skills and it helps me be more brave.’**

Participating student

## **Keeping Kids Engaged in School is the flagship program for the Imagined Futures Youth Initiative Working Group.**

It is an early intervention approach designed to encourage children and young people’s desire to stay at school, foster their sense of belonging, build resilience and support their transition to, and engagement with, high school.

The project encompasses three parts:

### **Years 4-6 Mentoring & Resilience/Leadership Program**

- A year-long resilience and leadership program delivered in primary schools targeting students from years 4 to 6
  - Providing mentoring and transition support to year 4 to 6 students in feeder primary schools
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### **Years 7-9 Change Champions & Resilience Program**

- A term-long leadership and resilience program delivered in secondary schools, run for separate groups in terms one and two for students from years 7 to 9
  - A leadership and mentoring program called Change Champions delivered in secondary schools in terms 3 and 4 to students from years 7 to 9
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### **Keeping Kids Engaged in School Program 2020-21 Impact**

284 students participated in the program across three primary schools and three high schools.

Participants demonstrated improvements in:

- Wellbeing and self-esteem
  - Behaviour
  - Sense of belonging and social connectedness
  - Leadership skills
  - Engagement with education
- 

Schools report that the program acts as a basis for culture change across the cohort:

- A sustainable path for the model has been identified with Palmerston committing funding to future delivery of program
  - The program model has been documented, and an information pack for schools developed
  - A research project received ethics approval and data collection has been undertaken
- 

The group also seized upon opportunities to fill gaps identified at working group meetings:

- Produced a Black Lives Matter resource
  - Instigated and supported the development of the Neami National funded Helping a Friend online resource to assist youth if a friend disclosed thoughts of suicide to them online
  - Trialled a program to support Year 9 youth at Fremantle College facilitated by Uniting WA with assistance from City of Fremantle
-

**‘[My child] has grown in confidence with school work and her outside sporting activities. [My child] is not afraid to express herself and her thoughts when interacting with friends, family and peers. We appreciate the opportunity given to her.’**

Parent

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**‘The success of Change Champions has inspired some extended student leadership programs, thus not only are you directly impacting the lives of the students involved, you are making a higher-level impact across the wider student body.’**

Deputy Principal at participating school

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**‘The program has helped me become a more confident and better version of myself.’**

Participating student

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**‘I really like Imagined Futures because it helps me with my confidence, and when we do activities together I feel like we can all work together and have fun.’**

Participating student

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## Notre Dame Research Findings Case Study

**Nurturing the capacity of young people is arguably the most powerful opportunity available to stem the rising tide of disadvantage we are seeing in our communities.**

The Imagined Futures partnership devised the early intervention program for students spanning the transition from primary school to high school. Keeping Kids Engaged in School has brought together schools, other government agencies and local not-for-profit's to deliver a strengths based program – the content of which is driven by the students themselves.

During 2021 Imagined Futures partnered with the University of Notre Dame to undertake an evaluation of the Keeping Kids Engaged Program by capturing the views of teachers, parents and, most importantly, honouring the student voice for whom the program was devised.

The research found that the success of the program is evident – especially the key feature of the program not being a 'one-size fits all' approach. Instead the

program is able to evolve organically to service the needs of the particular students in each school. The students could clearly identify with the program and were proud to be involved.

Acknowledging and empowering the voices of those to whom the program is targeted is perhaps the most salient way of determining program outcomes. Together the students, parents and school personnel have provided strong endorsement for the continuation of the program in their school.

**'I used to be that person who sat in the corner, and now I'm out in the world.'**

*Student*

## Mental Health Initiative

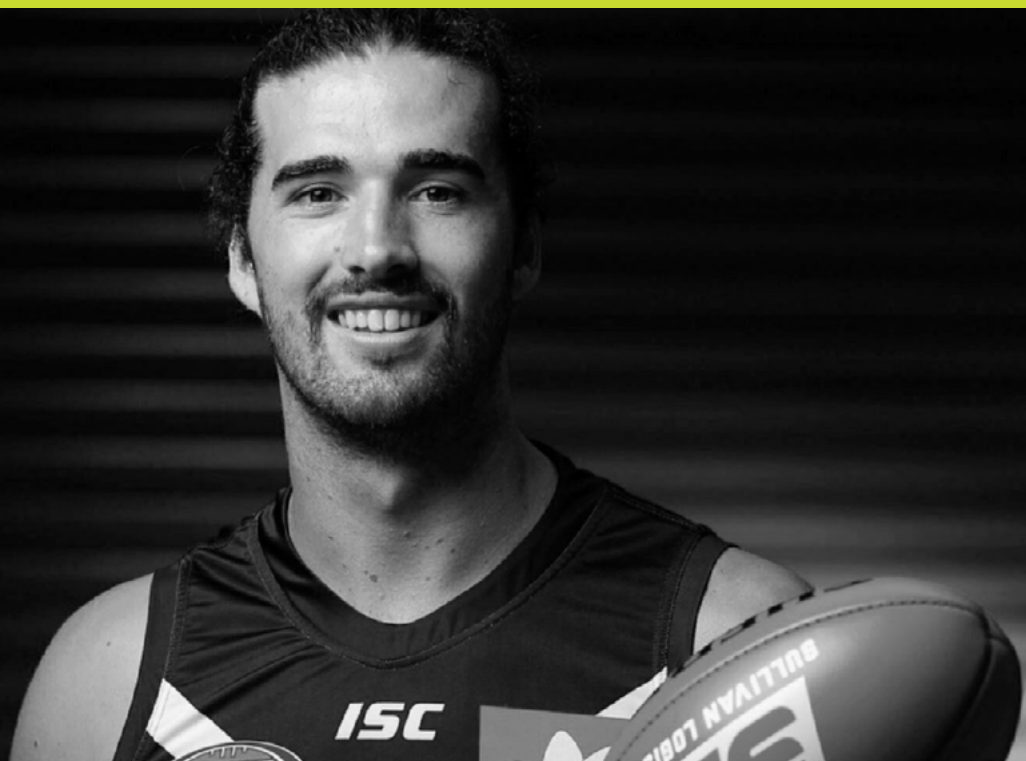
**The social and economic cost of mental ill-health and suicide to Australians each year is \$180 billion. The advent of COVID-19 has resulted in increasing numbers of people experiencing mental ill-health.**

The partnership responded by looking for opportunities to collectively work together to intervene early and improve support for people experiencing mental health issues.

The Alliance Against Depression framework was identified as one such opportunity in our local community. At its core, the framework brings local communities together to make their mental health system work better for them.

This model is endorsed in the WA State Government's most recent Suicide Prevention Strategy and is being promoted by the WA Primary Health Alliance.

Developed and tested in Europe, it is recognised as a world-leading practice for the care of people with depression and in the prevention of suicide. The success of this model rests on how we, as a community, adapt it to the local level.



## Mental Health Initiative Working Group

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### **Purpose**

Implementing a proven public mental health framework to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our community.

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### **Former Chair**

Dr Kaine Gregg  
*Fremantle Mind*

### **Chair**

Clory Carrello  
*Cockburn Integrated Health*

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### **Funding Source**

Lotterywest & WAPHA

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### **Mental Health Initiative Membership**

*Reps from 26 agencies:*

- 1** Federal government
- 2** State government agencies
- 3** Local government authorities
- 18** Not-for-profits
- 2** Community members

**The Alliance Against Depression framework works across four pillars that have proven successful when they are then integrated collectively within a community.**

In 2020, Imagined Futures made early representations to local GPs about involvement in the Alliance Against Depression. Members garnered in-kind support from the community, and undertook preliminary work mapping the local region, establishing a grants register and engaging stakeholders. We partnered with the Western Australian Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to access information, support, resources and expertise on the model, and identified qualified facilitators to deliver training.

After an extensive process bringing together a wide range of stakeholders together we developed a shared roadmap to implement the model across Cockburn, Fremantle and Melville. With funding secured from the WAPHA, Imagined Futures launched its Mental Health Initiative and its flagship program The Alliance Against Depression. We then secured further funding from Lotterywest to implement the program.

The four pillars of the framework:

- Public awareness campaigns to reduce the stigma associated with depression and suicide
  - Support for high-risk groups, both patients and their families
  - Localised training for health professionals including GPs
  - Education activities on depression and suicide for community members and leaders
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**‘The power that the Imagined Futures Alliance Against Depression harnesses is the shared intention and enduring commitment of people.’**

Dr Danny Rock, Principal Advisor and Research Director,  
WA Primary Health Alliance

## **The Alliance Against Depression Program 2020-21 Impact**

- Developed a region-wide plan to guide implementation of the Alliance Against Depression Framework
  - Formally launched our local Alliance attracting strong interest
  - Produced resources to help connect community members with local supports
  - Produced a mental health online support resource
  - Co-designed a WA Police resource to assist front line officers
  - Developed a community campaign toolkit
  - Developed an Alliance Against Depression toolkit for educators
  - Facilitated mental health training for parents, young people, Melville Cares and community sector workers
  - Partnered with Lifeline to offer mental health training to sporting clubs across the region
  - Shared resources/approach with other Alliances
  - Participated in two World Mental Health Day events attended by a total of 1200 people
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## Alliance Against Depression Case Study

**When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, members of Imagined Futures agreed that the mental health impacts on our community would be significant.**

As such, a priority of our COVID-19 response plan was to look for opportunities to bolster mental health supports in our region. One such opportunity became immediately apparent – Fremantle Mind had recently started a local Alliance Against Depression based on a model proven to combat depression and suicide. The Alliance Against Depression model had been brought to Western Australia by the WAPHA after seeing how effective it was overseas.

The model uses a collective impact approach consistent with that undertaken by Imagined Futures. It was clear that there were efficiencies to be gained by bringing the Alliance into the Imagined Futures suite of initiatives. Our Mental Health Working Group was formed with the Executive Officer of Fremantle Mind

chairing the group. By integrating into the Imagined Futures structure, the grassroots Alliance was able to leverage off the Imagined Futures governance structure, use existing branding and communication tools such as the website, and was in a stronger position to attract funding.

During 2021 we saw the Alliance go from strength to strength. The group received funding from the WAPHA and Lotterywest. Over 2021 it developed a plan for how to roll out the model in a place-based way, facilitated mental health training to community members, and curated a local mental health support resource.

# Community Initiative

**We focus on ‘what is strong, rather than what is wrong’ and work hand in hand with community members.**

The Imagined Futures Community Initiative seeks to test a collective impact approach to supporting a geographic community. The collaborative approach is further augmented by Asset Based Community Development principles to foster social capital and increase people’s agency. We believe that by taking a strengths-based approach we are able to build on the human and social

capital which exists in the community to drive meaningful, sustainable change. Inherent in our work is providing a range of opportunities for residents to engage with their community, and ensuring that residents’ voices guide the focus of the working group. Davis Park in Beaconsfield was selected to be the focus of the initiative because of the number of challenges facing the community.



## Davis Park Working Group

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### Purpose

Testing a collective impact approach to supporting a geographic community.

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### Chair

Julie Mitchell  
SMYL

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### Funding Source

Department of Communities  
(*Empowering Communities Program*)

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### Community Initiative Membership

*Reps from 12 agencies:*

- 3** State government agencies
- 1** Local government authority
- 8** Not-for-profits
- +** Residents

## **The Davis Park Working Group was established in 2014 and continued to operate in 2021.**

The Davis Park Working Group works within the Davis Park Community, a high density social housing area (around 97%). It fosters grassroots community development to generate social connection and increase both community and individual wellbeing. The Department of Communities provides funding to employ a community facilitator to coordinate activities.

In 2020, the Davis Park Working Group committed themselves to increase accessibility to essential services, collaborating and coordinating with service providers including the Black Swan Health Free Street Doctor, Food Bank and Red Cross Soup Van to deliver services to Davis Park residents. The consistent presence of these services has contributed to the development of mutual trust and respect within the community.

In response to COVID-19 and restrictions, outreach workers in the area coordinated with the community facilitator the delivery of meals to residents in partnership with St Partick's Doorstep Dinners program. The offer of tangible help provided the impetus for building stronger relationships with residents. These deeper relationships then laid the foundations for linking residents to other supports. This program delivered assistance to vulnerable community members, many of whom are in high-risk groups for COVID-19.

A video was commissioned to outline the experiences of the community facilitator and her work in Davis Park illustrating the impact the program has had upon the community. It featured honest stories from residents and the value the community facilitator has brought to residents.



**‘These sausage sizzles are like a little pop of joy on a Friday. It’s like this has become a real community.’**

Resident

## **Davis Park Community Program 2020-21 Impact**

- Freo Street Doctor set up 34 times and provided 346 appointments
- Red Cross Soup Van was at Davis Park 21 times and provided 210 received meals
- Community facilitator conducted 21 BBQ’s
- Vaccination pop up clinics delivered 30 vaccinations
- 100 people shared their ideas and cemented relationships across the resident group and with Imagined Futures
- Conducted a fitness and wellness program (Healthy Outreach Program) across 7 sessions with 42 participants
- A ‘Threads Together’ event provided Davis Park residents with access to free new clothes and 17 people took advantage of this opportunity
- Distribution of a Davis Park Newsletter hand delivered to residents
- 15 people attended a Christmas celebration
- Facilitator conveyed the model through the Where is the Door? Project

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The increase in the number of residents that participate in activities, that utilise services and participate has culminated in a greater sense of community in the area. People meet in the park on Fridays to socialise, to connect, to voice their concerns and find support from each other.

## Freo Street Doctor Case Study

### **Improving health on an individual level contributes to increasing the health of the community overall.**

The Freo Street Doctor is a mobile medical health service managed by Black Swan Health, that provides a visible, easily accessible and non-judgemental primary health service to marginalised, disadvantaged and homeless people in our community. The service is free and all consultations and procedures are bulk billed at no cost to the patient.

The Davis Park Community Facilitator recognised that a number of the residents qualified to access this service. Many were living with chronic health conditions and illnesses that required medical attention and the Facilitator successfully advocated for the service to operate from Davis Park on a weekly basis. This has had a profound effect on the community – several residents are taking better care of themselves by visiting the van regularly. As they learn more about their conditions and methods of management, they are also becoming better at monitoring their health and checking in with the doctor.

A local resident suffers from a number of chronic conditions and is a regular clinic attendee, checking in with the doctor (a big change from his past habits). He also pops down for a chat even when he doesn't use the clinic and has been participating in other community activities as well.

There are a number of people who have mental health conditions that benefit from regular access to health care. The level of their personal health often impacts the community so having a health service that can monitor and impact an individual's mental health means that the wider community is safer.

The outdoor waiting room provides a safe space for residents to talk, socialise and receive information about services and local organisations that they could access and benefit from.

**'As soon as I start to deteriorate, I visit the doctor to check in before it gets too bad. This is because the van is close, it makes it easy.'**

*Local Resident & Freo Doctor Patient*

# Housing & Homelessness Initiative

## Supporting the State Government's strategy to end homelessness by 2030.

On census night in 2016, 9,005 people in Western Australia were experiencing homelessness and 42% of people supported by specialist homelessness services identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. There is a clear commitment to ending homelessness in Western Australia. The State Government has developed the All Paths Lead to Home: WA's 10 year Strategy on Homelessness and the WA

Alliance to End Homelessness has set their Strategy to End Homelessness. Both of these strategies recognise that the next step is for local communities to develop whole-of-community and place-based responses. Imagined Futures is ideally placed to facilitate initiatives that align with the higher level strategies in a way that is informed by local needs, context and capacity.



## Housing & Homelessness Initiative Working Group

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### **Purpose**

Supporting the State Government's 10 Year Strategy to end homelessness with place-based approaches.

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### **Chair**

Michael Piu

*St Patrick's Community Support Centre*

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### **Funding Source**

*Lotterywest (20L20H - backbone coordination with a focus on implementation of the Housing First approach)*

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### **Housing & Homelessness Initiative Membership**

*Reps from 26 agencies:*

- 1** Federal government
- 5** State government agencies
- 2** Local government authorities
- 17** Not-for-profits
- 1** Business

## **Housing & Homelessness Initiative Program aims to facilitate collaboration within the community to better utilise resources to end homelessness.**

The working group works together to achieve their collective goal of ending chronic homelessness. They advocate for housing and homeless needs across the region such as a Common Ground facility and support the local implementation of projects such as the Zero Project. The group aims to support innovative approaches and during 2021 sought to amplify the impact of Home Hub, an initiative developed in response to COVID-19 to increase affordable housing options. The group promoted Home Hubs' work and participated in a community forum. There is also a commitment to share learnings. Thought leaders and experts are invited to present at meetings to share insights and brainstorm ideas on how they can be delivered at a local level.

## **Housing & Homelessness Initiative 2020-21 Impact**

- Coordinated response to the 'Tent City' encampment at Pioneer Park
  - Trialled housing pathway clinics where people experiencing street present homelessness could access services from a range of agencies in one place
  - Produced a food and accommodation directory to build community literacy about available supports
  - Coordinated the ongoing provision of available services over holiday periods (Easter and Christmas) and produces a directory to communicate what is available
  - Developed a coordinated outreach model for responding to encampments that is still in operation and the reach has been expanded to other areas
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**‘The level of trust and collaboration created through the operation of the IF model amongst key human services agencies has created an environment where partnerships can flourish and solutions can be found - even where IF is not formally involved.’**

Micheal Piu, Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Working Group

## **Tent City Case Study**

**In early 2020 a so-called ‘Tent City’ was established at Pioneer Park in Fremantle, to the great concern of community agencies, government, and many community members alike.**

The bringing together of large numbers of people who are facing hardship, with a range of vulnerabilities and trauma, into a small area without professional and structured support, represented a huge risk to the safety and wellbeing of those individuals, as well as the broader community.

Imagined Futures was able to call upon its established network to rapidly coordinate a team response to ‘Tent City’ resulting in greater support for the people camping in the park.

As well as addressing the immediate issues prompted by the establishment of the encampment, the Group went on to implement a range of activities that continue to benefit the broader community. These initiatives ranged from producing easy to reference service directories to developing a collaborative outreach model for responding to other ‘tent cities’ that remains in operation.

CHAPTER FOUR

# Looking Forward



## Directions for 2022

Imagined Futures is committed to continuing to affect change across our four priorities, youth, housing and homelessness, mental health and community, delivered through our four working groups. In addition, the Leadership Group is committed to:

### Our objectives

- Improving diversity within Imagined Futures membership
  - Exploring opportunities for a regional approach to Reconciliation Action Plans and Family and Domestic Violence
  - Implementing the Where is the Door? Project: a community framework for connecting people to the right supports at the right time
  - Reviewing the scope of the youth initiative working group to ensure we are maximising our impact
  - Continuing to work collaboratively with a shared objective of responding rapidly and effectively to local emerging social issues
-

# Thank you

This wouldn't be possible without these amazing organisations and people.

**You are Imagined Futures.**

	Leadership Group	Mental Health	Housing and Homelessness	Davis Park	Youth
20 Talk		●			
Alcohol and Drug Foundation		●			
Anglicare WA	●				
atWork Australia					●
Black Swan Health	●		●		
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	●				
Carers WA	●	●			●
Chamber of Commerce	●	●			
City of Cockburn	●	●	●		●
City of Fremantle	●	●	●	●	●
City of Melville	●	●	●		●
Cockburn Integrated Health	●	●			
Consumers of Mental Health WA		●			
Communicare	●		●		●
Communicare -Fremantle Rockingham Family Support Network	●	●			●
ConnectGroups		●			

	Leadership Group	Mental Health	Housing and Homelessness	Davis Park	Youth
Connecting 4 Kids		●			
Department of Communities	●		●	●	●
Department of Education	●				●
Department of Social Services	●				
End Homelessness WA			●		
Foundation Housing			●		
Fremantle Early Learning Centre				●	
Fremantle Foundation	●	●			
Fremantle Mental Health Service	●	●			
Multicultural Futures	●	●			
Fremantle Women's Health Centre	●	●	●		
FremantleMind	●	●			●
Headspace	●	●			●
Helping Minds		●			
Homeless Healthcare			●		
Housing Choices WA	●		●		
Imagined Futures (backbone support)	●	●	●	●	●
Life Without Barriers	●				
LifelineWA		●			
Living Proud		●			
Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation	●				●
Mental Illness Fellowship of WA		●			
Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation			●		
Neami National		●			●

	Leadership Group	Mental Health	Housing and Homelessness	Davis Park	Youth
Palmerston	●	●			●
Public Transport Authority WA					●
Reclink		●		●	
Red Cross			●		
Roses in the Ocean		●			
Ruah	●	●		●	
SMYL	●		●	●	●
South Metro Health Service		●			
St Patrick's Community Support Centre	●	●	●	●	●
Stephen Michael Foundation		●			●
United Way			●		
Uniting WA	●	●	●		●
University of Notre Dame			●		●
WA PCYC				●	●
WA Primary Health Alliance	●	●			
WA Association for Mental Health		●			
WACOSS	●				
WA Police	●	●	●	●	●
Wungening Aboriginal Corporation			●		
The Boxing Project					●
Youth Focus		●			
Youth Justice Services	●				
Youth Reach South					●
Zero Project Ruah			●		



## Contact us

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