



# Imagined Futures Annual Story

**2022**

Innovative thinking, collaborative working.

Imagined  
Futures 



# Contents

<b>Chapter One: Breaking Down Silos</b>	<b>4</b>
Relationships for change	5
Thinking together	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: 2022 in Action</b>	<b>19</b>
What has Imagined Futures delivered?	20
Where is the Door? Initiative	22
Youth Initiative	25
Mental Health Initiative	32
Community Initiative	37
Housing and Homelessness	42
Thank you	46

CHAPTER ONE

# Breaking Down Silos



## **Relationships for change**

### **Tackling the complexity of challenges facing our community is a marathon, not a sprint.**

There's a lot we don't know, but we do know that strong relationships are a necessary precondition for achieving positive social change. The quality of relationships has repeatedly been shown to be a critical ingredient in successful collaboration between organisational stakeholders. The presence of authentic relationships continues to strengthen our collective capacity to tackle complex challenges. We assist in joining the dots between the work of expert agencies, to add strength to what is working well and to support the gaps where needed. The more people, the more relationships – the stronger the solution.

Collectively, we work together to overcome the barriers that too-often exist in delivering solutions in joined-up approaches that don't neatly fit within prescribed funding pathways. Investing in collaborative, relational ways of working is like investing in index funds. We are diversifying risk and increasing impact over time.

This story is a glimpse of what can happen when we invest in structures that foster relationships, provide the flexibility for new ideas to emerge, and in turn, increase the range of opportunities for these ideas to be brought proactively to life. Together, we're on a path to impactful futures.

# Thinking together

## How do we make it happen?

In the 2019 WA Sustainable Health Review, State Government recognised that “change is inextricably linked to creating purposeful partnerships with people, communities, industry, and the nongovernment 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 calling for joined approaches to making change. There is a consensus on what needs to happen, the challenge is how we do it – and this is where Imagined Futures comes in.

CHAPTER TWO

# Imagined Futures



# Why Imagined Futures?

## The collective approach to solving complex issues.

We recognise that solving complex social issues is beyond the capacity of any single organisation. The Imagined Futures (IF) partnership has been working together since 2014. We use a collaborative impact approach that brings together government (across federal, state and local levels), not-for-profits, businesses, philanthropists and community members to address complex social issues in Cockburn, Fremantle and Melville to mobilise available resources across communities to achieve shared goals.

## Ideally positioned for access to opportunity.

We are recognised by state government as the District Leadership Group for the South West Metropolitan Region and auspiced by St Patrick's Community Support Centre (St Pat's). Our position helps us to leverage and secure financial and in-kind support from state and local government, Lotterywest, grants and members. Imagined Futures is uniquely placed to both act on behalf of the region, and access opportunities available to the not-for-profit sector.

## With a proven track record for 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 strategic coordination of critical issues and navigation of social support infrastructure is a key outcome from the Imagined Futures Collective. Their ability to bring to the table meaningful intel and draw on the various strengths of the stakeholders to leverage effective outcomes for the local community is an asset for the region.”

**Vik Jeyakumar**, General Manager, Greater Perth Area,  
Anglicare WA, 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 fullest potential.



## Our principles

Imagined Futures partnerships are underpinned by mutual trust, respect, and transparency. All are committed to achieving a coordinated approach to delivering human services. All are committed to improving social, cultural, and economic outcomes in the South West Metropolitan region.



“It is not about individual organisations, but how collectively each organisation can contribute to the overall wellbeing of individuals targeted by the programs that are supported.”

*Clory Carrello, CEO, Cockburn Integrated Health,  
Chair of the Mental Health Working Group*

“The collective impact of key players in the room, the ideas, the sharing, the enthusiasm, and energy leads to projects being completed, but it needs a core organising body behind this.”

*Joan de Castro, Children’s Development Officer, City of  
Cockburn, Member of the Youth Initiative Working 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: partner, advocate, connect and trial (PACT).

### **What is ‘collective impact’?**

Collective impact is a structured approach to solving complex social issues, driven by a group of different stakeholders in a community with shared goals. Unlike other models, 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?**

Our model 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.



“I believe the collective partnership enables a better understanding and acknowledgement of each other’s services.

It also provides a forum for regular updates on new initiatives being implemented to be responsive to the community needs for consumers in our catchment area.”

**Azam Edo**, Programme Manager, Fremantle Mental Health Services, *member of the Leadership Group*

“Imagined Futures reaches out to all peoples without discrimination. It seeks to empower the disadvantaged and give a semblance of hope to the afflicted and those who would otherwise be ignored.”

**Dr Gerrard Shaw**, Aboriginal Elder and community representative, *member of the Leadership Group*

## What are the benefits of our model?

Our benefits range from as simple as brokering new connections between partners to help them improve the services they provide to a community member, to as complex as development of new programs delivered by multiple providers to achieve maximum impact for the broader community.

The Imagined Futures partnership ‘joins the dots’ to build on established relationships, maximise collective resources, engage with our community, leverage community strengths, be proactive and seek early intervention.

This model cultivates conditions to achieve our collective vision, for all individuals and families in the South West Metropolitan region to be provided with the opportunity to achieve their full potential, in all areas of life and living.

## **The power of place-based initiatives.**

What is a place-based approach? This simply means we are based in the local community that we support. We engage local people and members as active participants in developing responsive and localised programs to address their own unique set of challenges, resources, and needs. We can, and do, generate real impact for the communities of Fremantle, Meville, and Cockburn.



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

Our working groups model is a strategic activation to deliver outcomes with deeper and sustained change. Through these working projects, we are testing what can happen when we pool collective resources, stepping outside of traditional approaches to community support. Our collective impact projects have been established to focus on five priority areas:



### **Where is the Door?**

Connecting our community to the right support, at the right place, at the right time.



### **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

### Message from the Chair of Imagined Futures

The production of an Annual Story is an ideal opportunity for reflection. I continue to be impressed by the commitment of the Imagined Futures partners to collaborative working, even against the headwinds of demand in their primary sphere of work. Together we have achieved so much throughout 2022, however it has been particularly gratifying to see the increasing connection with the broader community.

This year more than 40 businesses across the three Local Government Areas took part in our Alliance Against Depression public awareness campaign. Parents, teachers, and community groups, including sporting clubs, took up our offer of mental health training. The Fremantle and Melville Country Women's Association worked hard to sew quilts as part of our Connecting Aboriginal Children in Care to family, culture, and community project. Next year we have plans to engage with unpaid community connectors to build their knowledge of more formalised supports in our community so that they can bridge that connection gap – particularly for people who are new to seeking assistance. We often hear the aphorism that the answer to many of the challenges facing us require a “whole of community response”. It is hence reassuring to think that, in our small way, we are providing a mechanism as well as building the capacity of the community to engage constructively in addressing some of these challenges.

**Michael Piu, Chair**



## Message from the Executive Officer of Imagined Futures

In what was another very difficult year for the community, the Imagined Futures partnership galvanised their efforts to work together to fill gaps, maximise resources and seize upon the many strengths that exist in our community.

If I had to choose one theme for 2022 that stood out for me, it would be the partnership's work to build capacity of community members to support themselves and others. Across the suite of Imagined Futures projects, the partnership provided: mental health training for 418 community members (teachers, coaches, business owners, seniors, young people); in-depth leadership and resilience programs for 77 school students; training on treating depression and anxiety in young people to 33 GPs, a connecting to family, culture, and community event for 30 Aboriginal children in care; another 53 people benefited from one of our education workshops run at Davis Park. Not to mention the range of physical resources that we produced aimed at connecting individuals and their families to the supports that are available in our community.


When reading through this Annual Story it is humbling to reflect on how much has been achieved on what is a very modest additional financial investment. It is a true testament to each of our partners.


**Leigh Sinclair, Executive Officer**



## 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

Our breadth of members come from a variety of sectors, including government, as well as the community. Our diverse perspectives, expertise and resources means we can make change exceeding 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
- 

The Imagined Futures Leadership Group has representatives from 32 different stakeholder groups:

2	Federal government agencies	18	Community sector organisations
5	State government agencies	1	Business
3	Local government authorities	1	Philanthropic organisation
1	Community member	1	Aboriginal Corporation

---

### Funding Sources

City of Cockburn, City of Fremantle, Department of Communities

CHAPTER THREE

# 2022 in Action



## What has Imagined Futures delivered?

**In 2022, the partnership worked to consolidate, and build on, our broadened scope of work that started at the height of the pandemic period.**

Our Leadership Group members were committed to improving diversity within our broader membership, explored new opportunities for regional approaches to Reconciliation Action Plans and Family and Domestic Violence, implemented our Where is the Door? Project, and continued our work with young people.

While our work relating to regional approaches to Reconciliation Action Plans and Family and Domestic Violence is still in its fledgling stages, pleasingly the group made considerable progress implementing the other priorities.

### Over the course of 2022, the Leadership Group:

---

- Continued to provide oversight of the projects being delivered through the working groups.
  - Contributed to considerations about how District Leadership Groups can best support the implementation of the South West Native Title Settlement.
  - Pulled together collective data to communicate with the Mental Health Commission about our insights into mental health service provision in the southern corridor.
  - Scanned for emerging opportunities in line with our strategic direction and supported the development of new projects (e.g., the Connecting Aboriginal Children in Care project – refer to Youth Initiative section).
  - Provided letters of support for funding applications for projects to fill gaps in support for our community.
  - Hosted presentations on:
    - The Cockburn Aboriginal Cultural Centre
    - WAPHA's Vaccinating vulnerable communities' strategy.
    - StandBy Support after Suicide
    - WA Police Pathways for Closing the Gap
    - Murdoch Health Hub precinct
    - Town Teams
-

# Where is the Door? Initiative

**The widespread upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant hardship and uncertainty across the community.**

These impacts continue to be felt three years on. Flow on effects, such as increases in mental distress and disengagement from school in our young people, higher levels of family and domestic violence and financial hardship due to cost-of-living pressures are evident across the community, with many people seeking support for the first time.

While there are many comprehensive directories available for community members for support, many people don't know that these exist, or in some cases, even what help or services they may need. They may not realise they are eligible, or have the confidence to reach out.

The Where is the Door? project seeks to proactively bridge this gap by simplifying information about where to begin, and then delivering tailored information and connection to support directly to different community touchpoints such as school P&C committees, GP practices, sporting clubs, Members of Parliament's electorate offices via a range of communication methods.

The Imagined Futures Leadership responded by establishing a time limited WTD? working group to oversee a strategic approach to tackling this challenge.

## Where is the Door? Working Group

---

### **Purpose**

Implementing a community-focused framework for improving knowledge of, and connection with, available supports.

---

### **Chair, Working Group**

Peta Wootton

*Fremantle Women's Health Centre*

---

### **Chair, Community of Practice**

Sue Nickisson

*Communicare*

---

### **Community Initiative Membership**

*Reps from 8 agencies:*

- 1** Federal agency
- 3** Local Government authorities
- 6** Community service organisations
- 1** Peak body

Given the breadth of Imagined Future's membership, and through its role as a coordinating body, the partnership is ideally placed to promote the full suite of available services from a person-centred perspective. There is an explicit focus on not duplicating existing work but instead curating, packaging, and presenting information in a way that is easy to understand.

**Over the course of 2022, the Imagined Futures partners curated and distributed several resources tailored to support:**

---

- Local community members to find -
    - Free or low-cost services accessible without a referral
    - Accommodation, food, or other service supports.
  - GPs to refer their patients to community mental health services.
  - Police to refer community members to local support.
  - Schools connect students, parents and teachers to local services, resources, and training.
- 

**Community of Practice: Opening doors**

Imagined Futures established, and provided backbone support, for a Community of Practice of front-line workers chaired by Sue Nickisson Family Safety Lead, at Communicare. The community of practice brings together community connectors – both paid and unpaid – working across the South West Metropolitan region. The group meets regularly to explore opportunities for delivering community engagement, connections, and developing shared resources.



## Youth Initiative

**Promoting the capacity and agency of young people to disrupt and/or prevent the cycle of disadvantage has been a priority for Imagined Futures since the partnership's inception in 2013.**

This much needed work is perhaps more pressing now, than when it began. Globally, schools are experiencing a post-pandemic spike in persistent student absences and unsurprisingly, this trend is also evident Western Australian and the South West Metropolitan region. While disengagement is happening across the board, it is occurring at even greater rates for vulnerable young people.

Our schools are experiencing a surge in the number of students experiencing mental ill-health. Teachers are at the forefront of supporting these young people. Over the course of 2022, the Youth Initiative working group focused its ongoing efforts to keep children engaged in school, and to promote wellbeing of both students and teachers.



## 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  
Fremantle Foundation

### **Youth Initiative Membership**

*Reps from 22 agencies:*

- 4** State government agencies
- 3** Local government authorities
- 15** Community sector organisations



“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

Australian Institute of Families Studies research suggests that for every young person that disengages from school early the social costs are \$616,000 over the course of their lifetime. Since the inception of the Keeping Kids Engaged program, Imagined Futures has worked intensively with more than 800 vulnerable students who would have otherwise fallen through the gaps. To illustrate the power of early intervention: if, based on extremely conservative estimates, the program has contributed to changing the trajectory of 5% (40) of these young people’s lives, the savings made equate to \$24 million dollars. The benefits that students, parents, teachers have reported indicate that the impact is much greater than that.

Palmerston Association continued to lead the Imagined Futures Keeping Kids Engaged Program – in 2022, 62 students took part in programs designed to lay the foundations for ongoing engagement.

## Measuring our impact

With thanks to Lotterywest funding, Imagined Futures entered a partnership with the University of Notre Dame to undertake research into the effectiveness of the Keeping Kids Engaged Program. Combining their findings, with the program surveys routinely undertaken by program facilitators, the outcomes generated by participation in the programs were found to be:

Students demonstrated improvements in:

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

Parents report seeing improvements in their children's:

- Confidence
  - Willingness to go to school
  - Wanting to be a leader
- 

Schools report seeing:

- Less students accessing student services as they have been equipped with the knowledge to self-regulate
  - Students demonstrating better resiliency to deal with the day-in day-out upsets of high school life
  - Fewer students are having to leave the classroom for social/emotional reasons
-

## Promoting wellbeing in schools

2022 continued to be a year of great uncertainty for schools and broader community. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on school students and staff included stress, fatigue, anxiety and disruptions to routines and plans. Schools reported a dramatic increase in the number of students experiencing concerning levels of anxiety. At the same time the mental health system is experiencing extraordinary levels of demand and waiting lists are long. Accordingly, the Youth Initiative working group identified a pressing need to equip teachers, parents, and students to support others and to exercise self-care.

Through our partnership with Neami National we used a Fremantle Foundation grant to provide **148** teaching/ student service staff access wellbeing in schools workshops with respondents indicating that after participating in the workshops they:

- Are more aware of mental health and suicide prevention services
  - Are more comfortable assisting others or seeking help myself
  - Are more aware of the complex and diverse causes and impacts of suicide
- 

Through Imagined Futures Alliance Against Depression project, we were able to broker mental health and first aid training for parents, students, and sporting coaches. This training was delivered to further **72** people.

Further, responding to a request from Fremantle College, Uniting WA and Fremantle Mind teamed up to run a resilience program with 10 at-risk young women. The group also brokered a connection between the Fremantle Men's Shed and Fremantle College to offer a Billy Cart building program for a small group of at-risk young men.



“It’s like no other program I’ve ever done. It’s different; it makes me feel safe and lets me actually express myself.

Participating student

### **Connecting Aboriginal Children in Care to family, community, and culture**

One of the strengths of a place based collective impact model is the ability to nimbly follow the opportunities that present in the community. One such opportunity in 2022, was presented in the form of being able to bring our collective resources together to promote the wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable young people in our community – Aboriginal children in care.

With a painful history of the Stolen Generation, combined with ongoing experiences of trauma, providing care that supports Aboriginal children in care to health and flourish is a challenge that extends beyond the reach of any group or agency.

From their unique vantage point as Aboriginal people with an in-depth understanding of their community and the child protection system, Aboriginal Practice Leaders from the Fremantle District Office identified several initiatives that would meaningfully contribute to improving outcomes for Aboriginal children in care in the local area:

- Holding regular events to ensure that children, who are otherwise separated from their culture and siblings, can regularly connect.
- Providing Aboriginal specific care packs as a symbol of connection to culture, and a source of comfort.
- Providing a more welcoming environment for Aboriginal families when they attend meetings at the departmental offices.



“I wanted to go to school more, because I found that it was really fun, and I enjoyed it a lot.”

Participating student

The Youth Initiative working group rallied together to bring these ideas to fruition.

- The first connection event, Kambarang Day, was held in October and attracted more than 30 children accompanied by their carers. The Suicide Prevention program contributed funding for the catering, cultural performances, and goody bags. The City of Cockburn contributed free use of their community facility, art supplies and their youth workers, Imagined Futures backbone fund was used to employ a photographer to document the day, The WA Police and Fire Service also attended and ran activities with the children. Going forward, the plan is to hold three events per year, with each of the Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle and Melville talking turns to host.
  - Twenty Aboriginal Care Bags have been assembled as a starting point. Using a community grant from the City of Fremantle, Imagined Futures purchased Aboriginal themed fabrics, picture books and dolls for the bags. Volunteers from the Fremantle/ Melville CWA and the local community have used these fabrics to make quilts and squeeze toy comforters for inclusion in the care bags.
  - A meeting room in the local child protection offices has been transformed from a sterile space with a table and chairs into an Aboriginal family room. This has been achieved through the generous donations of artworks from a local Noongar artist and the City of Fremantle and philanthropic donations for other furnishings.
-

# Mental Health Initiative

**A Beyond Blue community sentiment survey found that cost of living pressures have overtaken COVID-19 as the main source of stress in 2022. Almost half of those surveyed said that they felt lost when it came to their mental health and wellbeing.**

As such mental health and wellbeing continued to be a key area of concern for the Imagined Futures partnership, noting that the uncertainty of COVID-19 followed by cost-of-living pressures was greatly impacting our community.

In this vein, the achievements made by the Mental Health Working Group over the course of 2022 were especially rewarding. All the hard work the group had undertaken during the previous year in laying the foundations for implementing

their flagship project, the Alliance Against Depression, came to bear.

The Alliance Against Depression framework was 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. Imagined Futures' success in implementing the model reflects the strength of the partnership and the personal commitment and good will of our members.





## Mental Health Initiative Working Group

---

### Purpose

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

---

### Chair

**Clory Carrello**

*Cockburn Integrated Health*

---

### Funding Source


Lotterywest & WAPHA

---

### Mental Health Initiative Membership

Reps from 34 agencies:

- 1** Federal agency
- 2** State government agencies
- 3** Local government authorities
- 25** Community sector organisations
- 1** Business
- 1** Philanthropy
- 1** Research



“Imagined Futures has helped champion StandBy in the community and provided us with invaluable opportunities to connect with other services and individuals.”

**Sita Wong**, StandBy Coordinator, South Metropolitan region

### **Alliance Against Depression project impact**

The Mental Health Working Group’s efforts were augmented by interns and student volunteers from the Universities of Notre Dame and Curtin. Further, such is his commitment to improving access to quality mental health services, Consultant Psychiatrist Mat Coleman travelled from Albany to volunteer his services by presenting the clinical aspects of our GP workshops. The group was also buoyed by the broader community’s willingness to support the public awareness component of our campaign.

Together we:

- Improved GPs knowledge of how to treat depression and refer to local community mental health supports.
    - Our tailored resource packs were hand delivered to every GP practice in our area – reaching nearly 400 GPs.
    - We hosted two workshops for GPs to improve their ability to treat depression and anxiety in young people, and to connect them to local mental health providers – a total of 33 GPs attended these workshops.
-

- Increased community knowledge about depression, reducing stigma around depression and suicide, and encouraging help-seeking.
    - We ran a public awareness campaign that rolled out across hospitality venues, social media, events and used large scale signage to direct people to mental health resources.
    - 42 hospitality venues displayed Alliance Against Depression materials.
    - Over 21,000 people reached via Imagined Futures facebook page and nearly 6,000 people reached via Instagram (and many more reached through our partner's social media accounts).
    - 12 weeks of metro bus advertising with a potential reach of 300,000.
    - Representation at World Mental Health Day and Black Dog on a Lead events attended by 1,700 people.
- 
- Improved community members' self-confidence in referring potentially depressed people into care and strengthened social networks.
    - We brokered mental health training sessions for high school students, parents, teachers, sports clubs, seniors, carers/service providers.
      - » 19 training sessions were delivered, reaching 270 participants.

- Improved care for high-risk groups and their families
    - We produced and distributed tailored mental health support resources to:
      - » 260 front line police officers
      - » 4 police stations
      - » 9 libraries
    - We brokered Mindframe training for local media to facilitate responsible reporting of suicide.
    - We used our networks to promote the newly available StandBy Suicide Support Service.
-

# 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. Using Assets Based Community Development principles, we foster social capital and increase people’s agency. By taking a strengths-based approach we can build on the human and social capital which exists in the community to drive meaningful, sustainable change

at both an individual and community level. 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

---

### Purpose

Testing a collective impact approach to supporting a geographic community.

---

### Chair

Julie Mitchell  
SMYL

---

### Funding Source

Department of Communities  
(Empowering Communities Program)

### Community Initiative Membership

Reps from 8 agencies:

- 4 State government agencies
- 1 Local government authority
- 3 Community service organisations
- + Residents

The Davis Park Working Group has been working with residents of the Davis Park precinct, a high-density social housing area over many years. The Working Group fosters grassroots community development to generate social connection and increase community wellbeing. The Department of Communities provides funding to employ a community facilitator to coordinate activities. In 2022, and with the persistent continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Davis Park Working Group committed to supporting health and wellbeing initiatives and consolidating community strength. The regular sausage sizzle has evolved

into a cook up onsite, serving a healthy lunchtime meal to community members at our regular Fridays in the Park event. This new approach has coincided with the return of the Foodbank van on a weekly basis and builds on the successful collaboration with the Freo Street Doctor.

The consistent presence of these services as well as a rain, hail or shine approach to our Fridays in the Park event has contributed to the development of mutual trust and respect within the community and provided a foundational event to invite other service providers to deliver their offerings to a receptive and open audience.

## Davis Park Community Program 2021-22 Impact

- Freo Street Doctor set up 48 times and provided more than 500 appointments.
  - Foodbank resumed services in August and provided access to low-cost groceries to a growing number of community members
  - 43 meals fed around 600 people across the year as part of the One Pot Wonder series and a Recipe book was distributed to stakeholders and residents.
  - Around 120 people accessed the vaccination clinic across the year and 75 packs including RAT tests, tissues, hand sanitiser and COVID educational resources were supplied to 75 households.
  - 25 people participated in a wellness activity and 53 benefited from an educational workshop with a service provider.
  - Fremantle Early Learning Centre committed to their partnership with the Davis Park community by including their activities in their strategic framework and staff and children brought gifts or baked goods to the park 15 times.
-



“Lunch is a bonus but being together with the community is the best!”

Resident

## Fridays in the Park Case Study

The desired community outcomes include creating a community that where residents feel safe and supported; where children and young people are engaged in educational, vocational, and recreational activities and a good place to live.

A regular sausage sizzle was the beginning of what has become a regular event each, “Fridays in the Park” a shared lunchtime meal with activities nestled either side of the meal, whether a yoga class, a meditation session or a community educational conversation with an expert.

We call the meal our One Pot Wonder meal. The Community Facilitator provides a simple cooking set up and ingredients for a healthy meal. Community members contribute to the meal preparation setting up the cooking equipment, preparing the ingredients, cooking the meal, and cleaning and packing up. Connie, the Nurse Practitioner who operates the Freo Street Doctor and Lisa, a respected resident of Davis Park, became our official food critics giving each meal a rating and a recipe book was made as a resource and a record of the food we have cooked and shared.

**This event has a multitude of benefits, it provides a regular safe social interaction and contributes to food security, with one resident commenting that the Friday lunch was the one meal they could count on all week.**

“I love Fridays, it’s my chance to catch up with people, I don’t really have any girlfriends, but this gives me a chance to see people. I love it. I don’t go out of the house except for Fridays to come here. If it wasn’t for this, I wouldn’t leave the house.”



The One Pot Wonder delivers an educational outcome, with some participants trying foods for the first time and others learning about how to put together a healthy and economical meal. The event nurtures social cohesion and several community events have been planned by community including:

- 2022 Christmas Party which included sourcing presents for children, co-opting a community member to be Santa for the day and magnificent food contributions from residents for a Christmas luncheon.
- The Davis Park Fun Day – a school holidays event run by a local resident, and which included a series of fun-based sporting activities for community along with prizes.
- The organisation of a “Bub’s Club”, a regular get together for parents and their children in the park.

---

**The rain, hail or shine approach to our Fridays in the Park event means people can trust that there will always be an offering. A regular cohort of community members have developed a strong sense of social cohesion, and this offers a space for invited service providers to deliver their offerings to a receptive and open audience.**

The Fridays in the Parks gatherings provide a forum where residents feel safe and confident to propose ideas that will contribute to their wellbeing, economic security, safety or to the improvement of their community including for example meditation and yoga classes, career information and tenant information sessions. Service providers are invited in to the Friday event to share their expertise and in turn, learn from community what the needs on the ground are.

Through this regular and consistent forum and the accompanying informal interactions, we hope that this event helps “to create new systems that foster capability and move away from needs based/crisis interventions.”<sup>1</sup>

---

1 <https://www.hilarycottam.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-Radical-Way-1.pdf>

# Housing and Homelessness

**The number of people experiencing homelessness in Western Australia increased by eight percent to a total of 9 729 people in the five years between the 2016 and the 2021 Census.**

In the face of increasing numbers, it is imperative that all available resources are marshalled using a strategic approach. The State Government's All Paths Lead to Home: WA's 10-year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030 and the WA Alliance to End Homelessness' Strategy to End Homelessness both aligned with Housing First principles, have set the strategic direction for ending homelessness in Western Australia. Yet that is not where the strategic work to guide collective efforts ends. Both strategies call for whole-of-community approaches and place-based responses:

- By collaborating and co-designing with people with lived experience, the community services sector, business and philanthropy, the community, and other levels of government, we can better design and deliver appropriate and flexible housing options and services that respond to the diverse needs of vulnerable people in our community.
  - Homelessness looks very different across Western Australia and between metropolitan, regional, and remote areas. Appropriate place-based responses need to be developed, which are informed by local needs, context, and capacity.
-

## Housing & Homelessness Initiative Working Group

### Purpose

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

### Chair

Michael Piu  
St Patrick's Community Support Centre

### Funding Source

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

### Housing & Homelessness Initiative Membership

Reps from 23 agencies:

- 1 State government agency
- 3 Local government authorities
- 14 Community Sector organisations
- 2 Aboriginal Corporations
- 1 Philanthropy
- 1 Business
- 1 Research

To deliver on these high-level strategic directions, the Imagined Futures Housing and Homelessness working group agreed to lead the development of a regional plan. The geographic boundary for the plan was chosen to align with the State Government's South Metropolitan region, which includes the local governments of Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville, Rockingham, Mandurah, Waroona, Murray, and Boddington. Many agencies are funded to deliver services across this region.

Leading the development of this plan is an ambitious body of work, particularly over a time of massive funding investment and activity. Using Department of Communities funding Imagined Futures engaged Pauline Logan of Pauline Logan & Associates to produce a comprehensive snapshot of housing and homelessness and housing activities across the region.





“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

The snapshot that was produced is a useful resource for people working in this space. It facilitates a common understanding of the many activities occurring. It also recognises that the regional context is impacted by the wider context underpinning the homelessness and housing system and includes developments occurring at a federal, state, and regional level.

The snapshot captures a broad range of knowledge and expertise gleaned through:

- 17 individual stakeholder interviews;
- 8 interagency meetings and forums;
- a comprehensive desktop review; and
- region-wide service mapping undertaken by Imagined Futures.

---

This work was undertaken to inform a workshop intended to provide collective leadership and harness the commitments, collaboration, capacities, and initiatives within the region.

# 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
Act Belong Commit		●			
Bluebird Mental Health		●			
Alcohol and Drug foundation		●			
Anglicare WA	●		●		
Black Swan Health	●		●		
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	●				
Carers WA	●	●			
Centre of Social Impact UWA			●		
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 Health					●
Department of Social Services	●		●		
Fremantle Chamber of Commerce	●	●	●		
Fremantle Early Learning Centre				●	
Fremantle Foundation	●	●			
Fremantle Mental Health Service	●	●			
Fremantle Womens Health Centre	●	●			
Fremantle Mind	●	●			●
headspace	●	●			●
Helping Minds		●			
Homeless Healthcare		●	●		
Housing Choices WA			●		
Imagined Futures (backbone support)	●	●	●	●	●
Lifeline WA		●			
Living Proud		●			
Meerilinga Young Childrens Foundation	●				●
Mental Illness Fellowship of WA		●			
Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation	●		●		
Multicultural Futures		●			
Neami National	●	●			●
Palmerston	●	●		●	●





	Leadership Group	Mental Health	Housing and Homelessness	Davis Park	Youth
Public Transport Authority WA					●
Reclink		●			●
Red cross			●		
Richmond wellbeing		●			
Roses in the ocean		●			
Ruah	●	●			
Shelter WA			●		
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 Alliance to End Homelessness			●		
WA Primary Health Alliance	●	●			
WACOSS	●				
WA Police	●	●	●	●	●
Wunjening Aboriginal Corporation			●		
Youth Focus		●			
Youth Justice Services	●				
Zero Project			●		



needle exch

Prou

FRED  
STREET  
DOCTOR



## Contact us

**Phone** (08) 6372 4800  
**Web** [imaginedfutures.org.au](http://imaginedfutures.org.au)  
**Email** [imaginedfutures@stpats.com.au](mailto:imaginedfutures@stpats.com.au)