

From framework to practice: What would be needed to implement a shared impact framework in place-based work?

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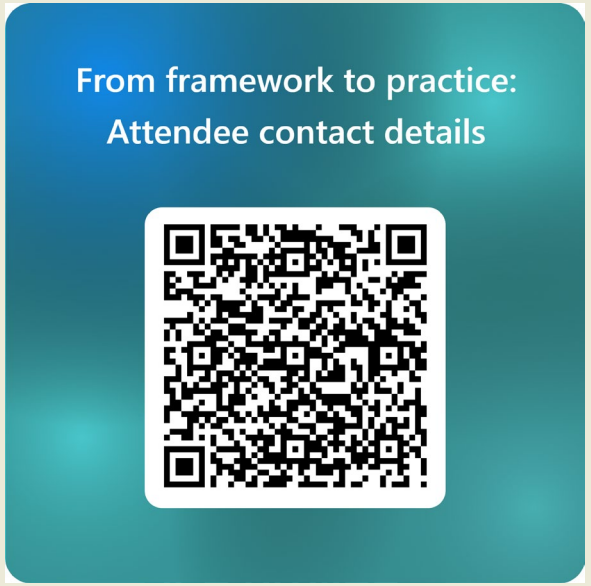
Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of Country and recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters, skies and communities.

We pay our deepest respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Agenda

1. Introduce PLACE Australia
2. Understanding impact in place-based work
3. Takeaways from PLACE Impact Summit
4. Exploring implementation opportunities and challenges together



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Who we are

Partnerships for Local Action and Community Empowerment (PLACE) is a national organisation that supports place-based approaches to local issues.

We work with communties to:

- Translate practice evidence into actionable insights for policy, funding and implementation
- Develop practical guidelines, resources and training based on evidence
- Support place-based initiatives to better understand and communicate their impact

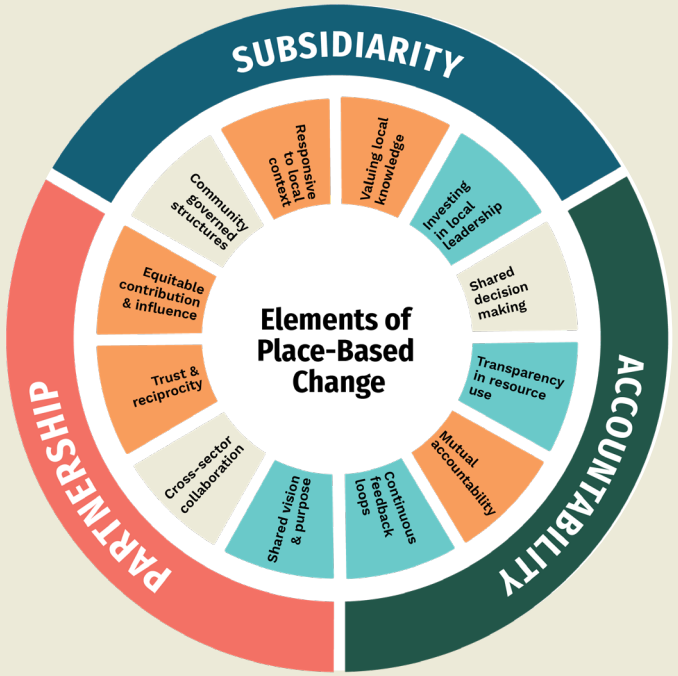
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Understanding place-based approaches

- The structure and organisation of place-based approaches vary significantly between places

- There are differences in:
  - how place-based initiatives (PBIs) are organised and structured
  - the way decisions are made
  - the role of community in shaping direction
  - how change is created
  - the role the initiative plays within the system
  - priority communities and focus of the work

- These aspects make it difficult to consistently measure impact across initiatives and grow the evidence base.



See 12 elements of place-based change
https://www.placeaustralia.org/resource/place-12-elements/

Sign up to PLACExCHANGE
https://www.placeaustralia.org/placexchange/

Challenges to understanding impact

1. Current approaches do not consistently reflect /capture how place-based work happens on the ground

2. The use of simple metrics to measure place-based approaches produces an incomplete picture of what is changing and why

3. Success looks different to different stakeholders

4. Early signs of change on the ground are not consistently recognised, valued, or captured as evidence

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Understanding impact

At PLACE Australia, we believe understanding and measuring place-based impact means looking at two things:

1. What is changing for people and communities in a place over time

AND

2. Understanding the role that place-based approaches play in driving those changes?

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The missing middle

- Change does not happen all at once in place-based change
- Progress is incremental and cumulative over time
- Foundational work of PBIs drives important changes that support long-term change:
    - Community agency, power, and shared decision-making
    - Building trust, relationships, and connections in place
    - Collaboration and collective action
    - Learning, responsiveness and adaptation
    - Community confidence, readiness and shared ownership

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PLACE Impact Summit, June 2026





- How we come together to build a shared approach is important with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and local community perspectives critical to success
- To support mutual accountability between *ALL* partners, any framework or set of indicators must capture the contributions of all parties
- A shared framework or set of indicators should reflect early signs of change and what communities define as important
- They must be sensitive to the differences between PBIs and local context but consistent enough to grow the evidence-base
- A shared approach must work for PBIs and not add to the reporting burden
- To be successful, funders and government need to support and implement any framework or shared indicators developed

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Exploring implementation challenges together

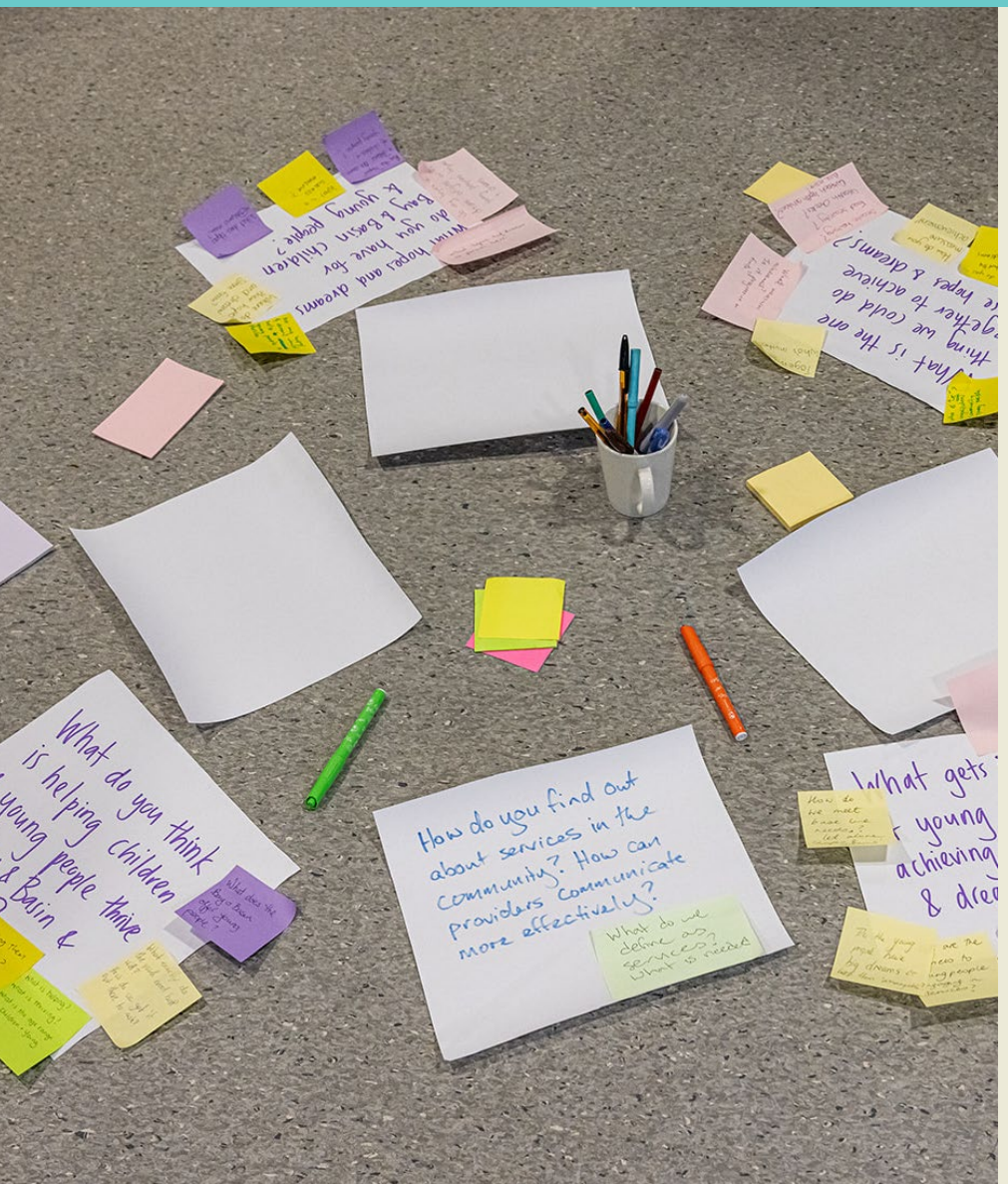


On your tables, nominate a scribe and speaker. You'll find butcher's paper and markers.

We'll spend 10 minutes on a question with a 5-minute room discussion before moving to the next one.

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Question 1



1. What are the implementation opportunities and challenges when introducing a shared approach to measurement across PBIs?

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Question 2



2. What is needed to support the implementation and uptake of a shared approach across the sector?

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Question 3



3. How could a shared impact framework or set of indicators be applied consistently across PBIs while remaining sensitive to local context?

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Next steps

From framework to practice:

Attendee contact details

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For more information, contact PLACE at info@placeaustralia.org