

Place-based evaluation:

Collaborating to navigate learning in complex and dynamic contexts

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Relationships Australia Victoria acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waterways of Australia. We support their right to self-determination and culturally safe services.



We are committed to providing safe, inclusive and accessible services for all people.

We recognise the lifelong impacts of childhood trauma.

We recognise those who had children taken away from them.

Wayfinding



Yarra Communities that Care®: A collaborative approach to strengthening family relationships in the City of Yarra



Partner agencies:

- Beginner's Mind
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- cohealth
- Drummond Street Services headspace Collingwood
- Mindful - Centre For Training & Research In Development Health, The University of Melbourne
- Neighbourhood Justice Centre
- North Richmond Community Health
- Reach Foundation
- Relationships Australia Victoria
- The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne
- Uniting Vic Tas
- Victoria Police
- Victorian Government Department of Education
- Yarra City Council

Tools for navigating complexity

Place-based approaches

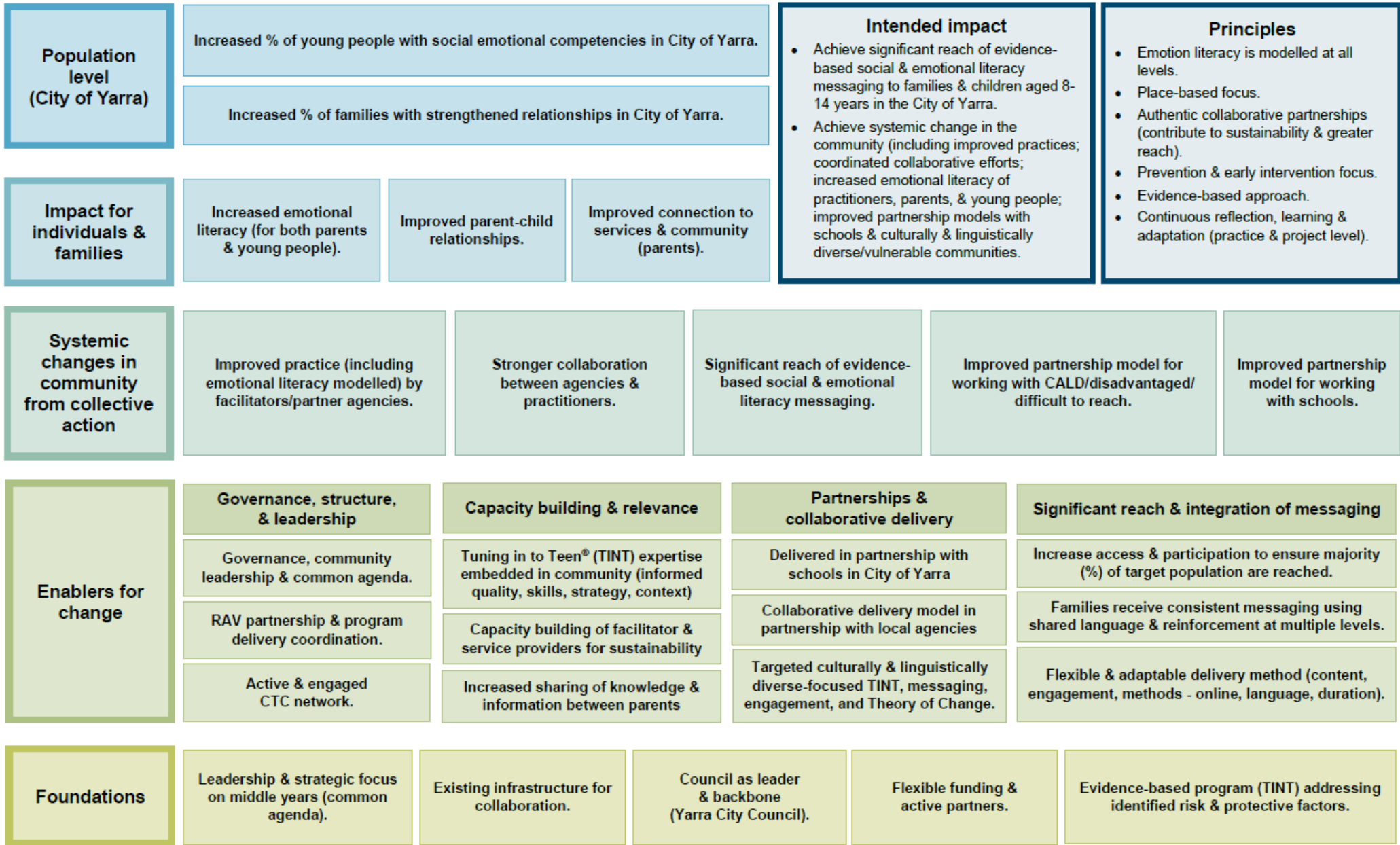
- Involve a collaborative approach to solving a complex social issue in a geographically bound location.
- Generally involves shared design, stewardship, and accountability for outcomes, with an overall aim at community development.

Complex and dynamic

- The complexity and long-term duration of place-based approaches pose challenges for evaluation, making attribution difficult.
- Evaluation approaches that emphasise reflection and learning can support project implementation in these complex environments.

Tools to navigate

- Place based evaluation Framework (Dart, 2018)
- Theory of change
- Developmental evaluation for ongoing development (Patton, 2015)
- Existing evidence-base



What was delivered



67 programs delivered



410 female participants



61 couples



545 participants



131 male participants



20 culturally and linguistically diverse programs



80% of participants completed at least 4 sessions



69 facilitators in the Facilitator Network



14 webinars and information sessions with 1,383 attendees

Program statistics 2017-2024

Facilitator focus groups

Theme 1: Social capital

- Building and leveraging relationships
- Collaborating in partnerships
- Advocating for shared goals
- Supportive structures enhance the effectiveness of programs
- Strength of bonds facilitated by the network building a culture of openness, honesty, and growth

Theme 2: Collective intelligence

- Continuous learning and adaptability
- Role specialisation and structure
- Respect and space for variety of perspectives
- Reciprocal learning and leadership opportunities

Theme 3: Community

- A strong sense of belonging and feeling valued
- Shared vision and goals
- Buy-in and commitment
- Supervision, support, and professional development

Facilitator focus groups

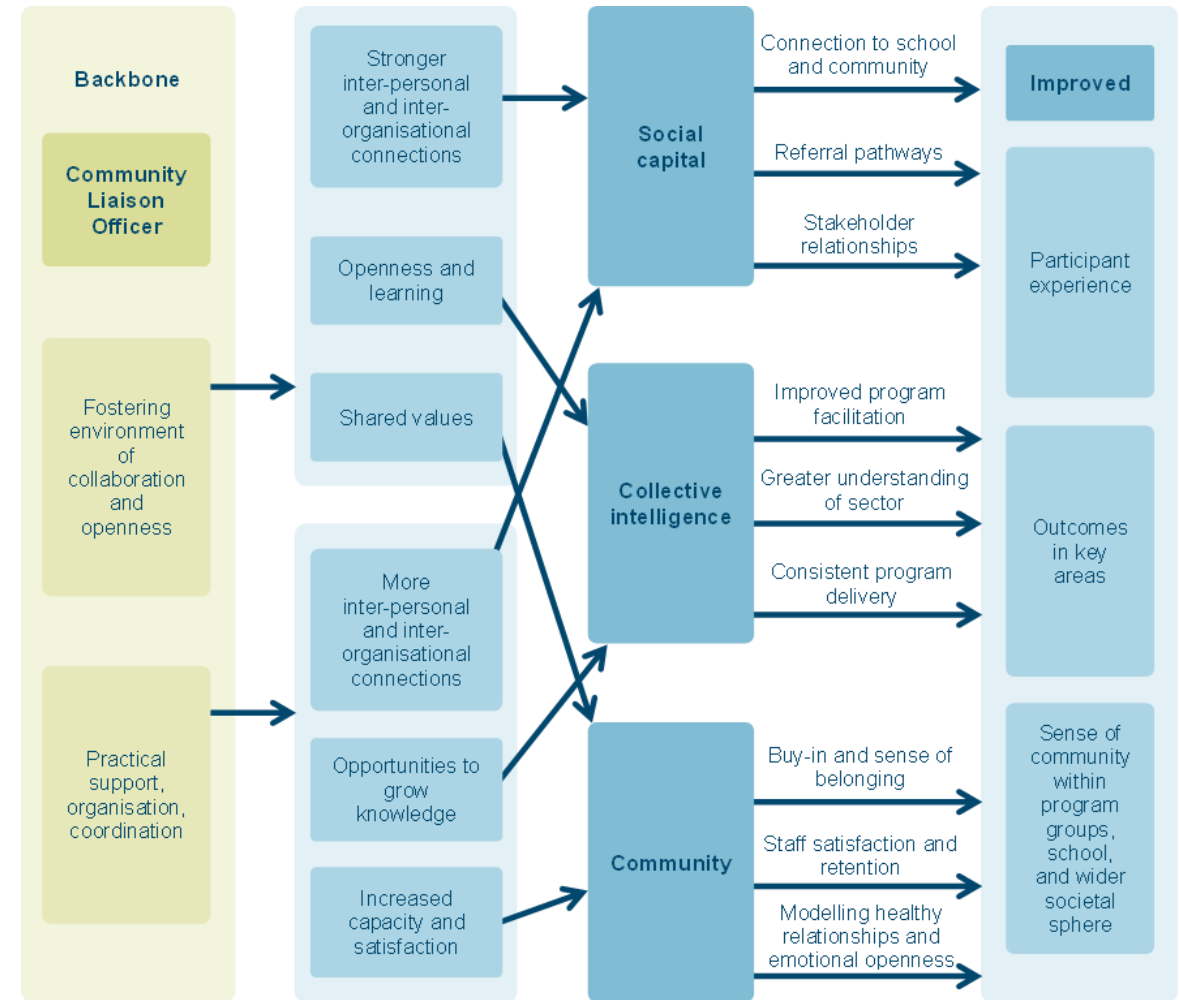
Backbone support elements *lead to...*

...growth in these areas which *leads to...*

...group strengths which *lead to...*

... skills, capacities, understanding, and emotional investment which *lead to...*

....improvements for participants and community.



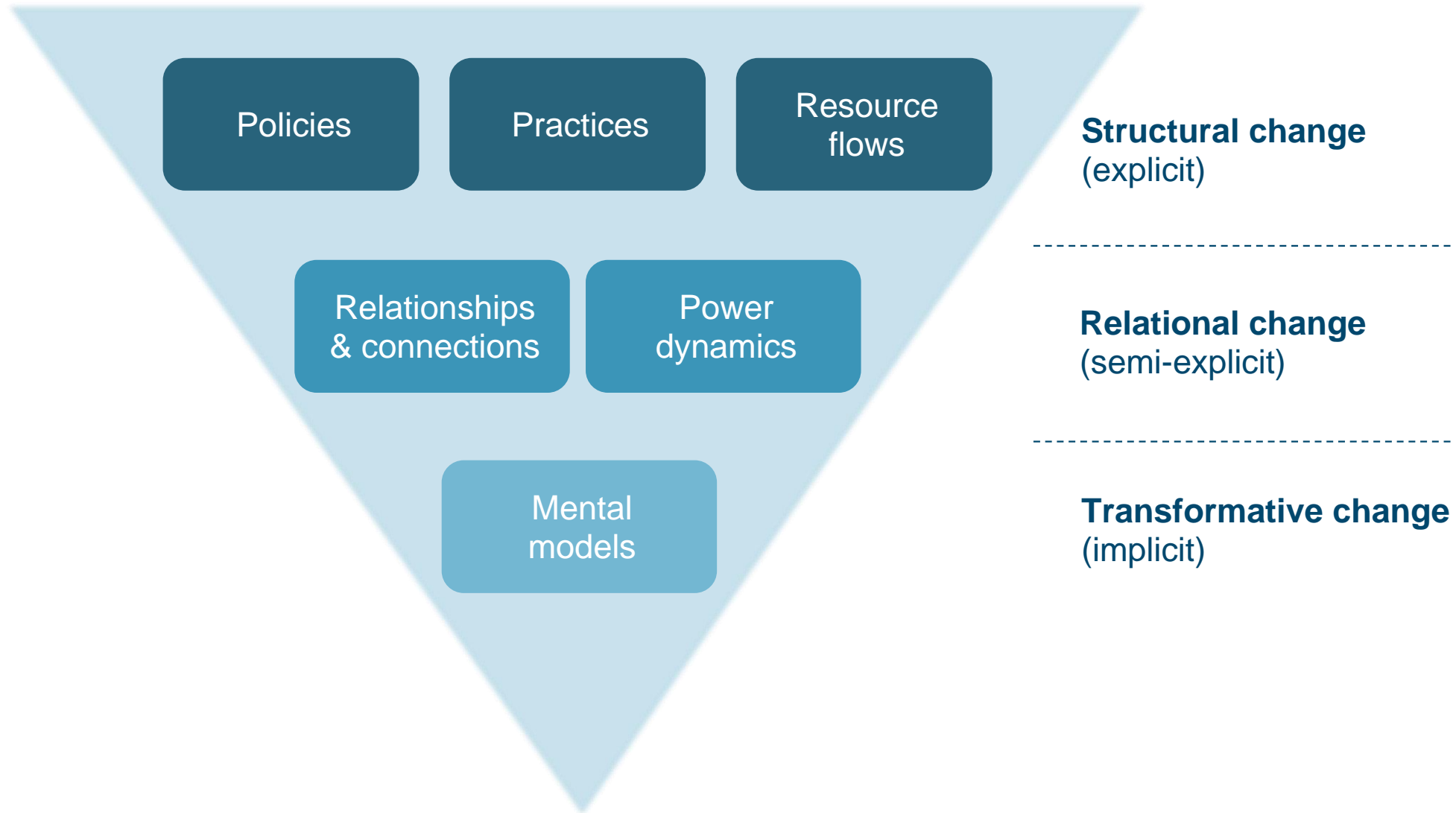


Figure: Six conditions of systems change (from Kania et al, 2018)



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Access the full evaluation report



Scan the QR code or visit
rav.org.au/news/yarra-ctc-evaluation

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Contact us

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Learn more



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