



North Central LLEN

Creating opportunities for all children
and young people to be on their way to
success in education, work and life.

New Strategic Plan Focus Groups & Survey

**What we
heard...**



From our stakeholders

Table of Contents



From our stakeholders 2

Young People 11

Industry 13

Education 16

Early Years..... 18

Health..... 20

Youth & Community Groups..... 22

Local Government..... 26

Government Departments/Agencies..... 29

Survey Responses 32



FROM OUR STAKEHOLDERS

During eight focus groups with our stakeholders we gained valuable insight into their current perceptions of the North Central LLEN and our existing relationships/partnerships, the issues facing young people, and priorities for consideration as part of the development of the new North Central LLEN Strategic Plan.



Our Focus Groups encompassed Young People (10), the Education Sector (5), Early Years providers and parents of young children (4), Industry (10), Health Professionals (4), Youth & Community Organisations (11), Local Government (9), and Government Departments/Agencies (10) with whom we work closely. A survey was also distributed to participants who were invited but not able to join us for a Focus Group (16 respondents).

In total we heard ideas and insights from 79 stakeholders. On the following pages you will see in detail what we heard from participants in each of the eight focus groups and survey.

But first, a summary of what we heard from our stakeholders as a collective:

Reflection

Relationship between LLEN and this sector: The majority of focus group participants and survey respondents were happy with the relationship between their organisation and the NCLLEN - *"I love your flexibility and passion and willingness to try doing new things!"*

"Commitment to the child/student is evident in the work you undertake. You have a clear plan to embed and develop this work. The organisation keeps this as its central moral purpose, not the 'branding' of the entity itself."

The weakest responses come from the Health and Industry Focus Groups where participants were mixed about how well they perceived the North Central LLEN interacts with them – *"We hear a bit about the LLEN's presence but don't see so much action on the ground - it may be just communication or promotion needed (Industry)"* and *"I think we are some missing some collaboration opportunities in program areas (Health)"*.

When asked how we could strengthen our partnership, suggestions included:

- Look at building a culture that values both University pathways AND trade pathways; a better understanding of what local businesses do (and offer) and the career opportunities available.
- Develop stronger relationships with industry so there is a better understanding of what the NCLLEN can offer as a partner as well as creating awareness of what employers can offer young people
- Consider expanding our work to include younger year levels, look at avenues to develop the social capacity of young adults in addition to the careers and pathway work and strengthen engagement between education and industry
- Stakeholders needed more understanding of how the NCLLEN can partner with them to engage & support children & families
- Opportunity to create a platform whereby we collaborate in a planned, consultative way to complement each other's work

6. Link with Unborn Children Project – prevention from the earliest opportunity/Promoting and connecting early years intervention services
7. Parent Mentoring - build capacity of parents to support other parents/Parenting support/capacity building - new parents/Parents/Carers/Grandparents
8. Emotional coaching as part of the lifelong parenting and learning journey
9. Online support sessions, information sessions, playgroups
10. Focus on the first 1000 days/Support parents – their role in being a child's first educator
11. Dynamic, accessible childcare is available with flexible options: dedicated site, funded in home care, family day care, etc.
12. Service integration is critical - advocate for more early years hubs connected in schools

Pre-School Learning

13. Able to access activities in our local area, eg. Playgroup, Mother Goose, Story Time, Music Session, Gymbaroo, Shake Rattle and Read
14. "Parent club" get togethers during Pre-School with a social aspect and learning
15. Collaboration across preschools to share best practice/wisdom and support all areas of early literacy
16. More structured playgroup with greater learning outcomes

School

17. Re-imagining early years and schools as places that embrace diversity and build a culture of inclusivity.
18. Strengthen transitions for schools and families - the greater the level of absence at Kinder & Prep increases risk of disengagement at later years
19. Literacy and numeracy support programs for early years (both pre-school and whilst at school)
20. Have children think about careers in early primary school/ Trips to work-place locations and setting up interactive hands-on learning/Kids Careers Expo (eg. Kidzania)
21. Looking at support programs for students already showing signs of disengagement from education
22. Assisting to imbed health and community health into education settings
23. Free wi-fi for disadvantaged families. After hours Hubs in schools for services
24. More learning in environments other than schools/After School Clubs
25. Life Skill programs

Community connections

26. Need to experience community – create opportunities
27. Community Gardens – visible and inclusive. Help promote healthy eating, where food comes from, sense of achieve and life skills
28. Linking with the Elderly/Aged Care facilities
29. Interactive Playgrounds/Nonsporting recreational facilities
30. Develop creative partnerships to broaden opportunities/Community arts projects

Health

31. Local access to a variety of health services, eg. parenting support, speech therapists, OTs, social workers, paediatricians
32. Regular opportunities for Telehealth with support onsite from a qualified person ie: maternal health, for things like antenatal classes support, first time mum's/families
33. Free transport to access health services where not available locally
34. Strong links with MCH/ Access antenatal care in the region/Preconception, pregnancy, and babies-support is provided for healthy mothers, children, and families
35. Connecting services to each other to have a more coordinated approach
36. Mental health programs for building strong mental health early
37. Health and wellbeing programs

Gender Equity

38. Explore the impact and opportunities to address gender stereotypes

Middle Years

1. Focus on the development of whole child/Vulnerable time, onset of mental health, sexuality exploration, etc
2. Middle years is all about aspiration - the concept of work, career awareness, industry mentoring, understanding the employment opportunities out there, transition from primary to secondary, adolescent mentoring, self-constructed curriculum etc/ Give young people a purpose and vision about why education is important

Education

3. Have family service practitioners working within schools to support families
4. Help kids understand who they are, how they learn, how they communicate
5. More preparation for Grade 5/6 transition to high school education! Early years program often drops young people before they are picked by youth programming later /Improve student experience of transition to secondary school/Improve communication between primary and secondary educators
6. Partnership with schools/teachers to provide support to those identified at risk/Additional support for those children and young people struggling with school
7. Mentor programs
8. Short leadership programs, half day – blasting them with career opportunities, life skills and leadership exercises (big, loud, colourful)/Forums, guest speakers, training/ Create team building opportunities for connection and support/Support diversity
9. Hands on learning opportunities
10. Model effective student voice/Programs to encourage & support hearing the voice of children
11. Projects that build social skills/self-confidence/self esteem
12. Giving children a range of opportunities across different topics, eg. Science, maths, technology, and also other education programs, maybe trades, agriculture/Search out student abilities and encourage them to excel in these areas/Build confidence in children based on likes/ strengths, educate on career opportunities
13. Supporting school programs to increase student awareness of the world of work/Early introduction to careers and pathways
14. Encourage young people to explore different pathways/Forums to support education/employment options (with gender equity lens)/Making more visible the broad range of careers available, both locally and wider
15. Earlier involvement with industry/ Provide opportunities for young people to upskill in their local communities/"Try a job" days/Give kids hand on experience in job roles/Day Trip Work Experience

Disengagement/re-engagement

16. Review education system: greater access to alternative delivery/Greater understanding about the reasons why students disengage from education
17. Re-engagement programs/Increased intervention programs around academic and social needs/Early pickup of barriers to education
18. Assist to identify disempowered families and partner to develop skills to develop capacity and promote value of education
19. Look outside the box – engage in more life learning skills in conjunction with schools
20. Borrowable wi-fi in homes. Digital hubs in libraries so kids can play with new tech

Community

21. Develop opportunities for youth participation/engagement in communities
22. Having a variety of community leaders that are recognised/Recognition of youth participation in community (eg. awards)
23. Encourage this age group to become involved in their future – strengthen community participation
24. Coordinate innovative community activities so kids can make and maintain relationships with adults outside of school and family (particularly in Covid times)

Health

25. Programs to support positive mental health/Further support for mental health practitioners in schools
26. Local access to a variety of health services including mental health, child psychologists/Speech pathology assessment for each child
27. Service provision to support families with children in this age group
28. Health eating and other positive health initiatives

Social/Connectivity

29. Provide opportunities for young people to co-design activities/programs for them
30. Meetings like this (*this came from the Focus Group with Young People*)
31. Free local events (with transport) - Movie nights, pool parties, safe young people events during the day/Freezas and other social events/Social calendar of events (diverse) for NC/Social connectivity outside of things like local sport/Activities for children not interested in sport - music, arts, and culture
32. Exposure to different sports/More exposure to art and cultural activities – music, theatre groups, drama/Exposure to city life and vice versa
33. Regional virtual events with large screens connecting venues (address isolation)/Gatherings across the north central region to provide opportunities to meet new people from other towns/Excursions with kids from different schools/ Cluster Days/Camps with other schools
34. Create opportunities for children to participate in group activities after school and during holidays

Careers and Pathways

Career Guidance

1. Have young people involved in planning and delivering careers programming
2. Earlier exposure to career advisors/Career education earlier and more often on a student's journey/ Highlight local career opportunities
3. Continue current career education programs (MIPs, FLO, L2P)/ Career planning interviews/Mock interviews, resume, and cover letter support
4. LLEN Presence at subject selection and VTAC information evenings
5. Keep teachers/careers teachers up to date (professional development)
6. Face-to-face interviews once ATARs are released
7. Different and interesting speakers about a broad range of careers
8. Have trade/higher education experienced people come and talk or see students

Pathway Support

9. Career seminars/Careers Expo revitalised/Expand the scope of career choices
10. Showcase the achievements of past students to highlight what can be achieved/pathways
11. Organise industry-based expos to show students and parents a range of local opportunities
12. Expand Broader Horizons Program to other schools within the NC region
13. TAFE & University hubs with "taster" programs for work/education experience
14. Have more local industry come into school to chat to the students/Bring in interesting and engaging speakers to encourage entrepreneurship
15. Work together with industry about what they need/Support local businesses to provide traineeships and apprenticeships/opportunities for young people to experience a variety of work options
16. More talk about scholarships for further study

Work Experience

17. Visits to local businesses organised by LLEN to show off career opportunities
18. Database of employers willing to be "resources" for youth/provide work experience opportunities
19. Form a bank of local employment opportunities or potential ones coming up
20. More exposure to work placements/Give kids hand on experience in job roles/Encourage everyone to do work experience in multiple workplaces
21. Extra work experience - NCLLEN could provide travel for students who cannot make it to Bendigo or beyond/Have more work experiences - two a year & one in year 9/school holiday placements

VET

- 22. Strengthen the esteem of VCAL and VET – not all pathways lead to University
- 23. More subjects at NCTTC/Market the Trade Training Centre better to the community

Other avenues of support/capacity building

- 24. Supporting youth to be entrepreneurs/Information about starting/owning a business
- 25. Lifeskills: some youth need support with fundamentals like getting a licence, enrolling to vote, Centrelink, further education applications, scholarship applications, budgeting, etc.
- 26. Mentoring programs/Provide mentors and training – ability to be flexible
- 27. Strengthen focus on skills needed for work (hard & soft)
- 28. Linking local students with volunteers in local community organisations to obtain experience
- 29. Programs focussed on building everyday confidence and mental health resilience
- 30. Talk to NH's about programs that could be delivered to upskill youth/Offer short course opportunities

Disengaged Youth

- 31. Don't let the disengaging students fall through the gaps – more support for initiatives such as FLO
- 32. Community programs with students not attending school/Camps to engage unmotivated students

Young Adults

- 1. Expand Young Adult to 18-25

Career Guidance and Pathways

- 2. Continue MIPs style support for this age group/support to find what fits, better public transport options to work/study away from home but live at home
- 3. Ongoing career advice/further career testing- skill development/Pathway support
- 4. Review destination tracking progress/ Careers follow up on leaving school/Ensure adequate post graduate support/ employment/
- 5. Guest speakers (young adults) who have struggled with their transitions and how they overcome their challenges/Role models who can share their stories with young people
- 6. School Leaver's Guide/Portal - More information regarding where to go from year 12/University support – courses, jobs, accommodation/Employment assistance/ Support moving away from home
- 7. A "hub" to learn about local employment opportunities, traineeships, apprenticeships

Transitioning

- 8. Life skills – Support with transitions/How to live on your own, bills, taxes, renting, budgeting, getting accommodation legal documents/ Centrelink/Financial management/Making sensible choices/Health & Wellbeing/Surviving the barrage of 18, 21 celebrations, getting licences, taking risks, making choices/Information nights on budgeting and managing living expenses responsibly
- 9. Access to local health services including mental health, drug & alcohol support

Job Ready

- 10. NH to provide some courses for free through ACFE/Talk to NH about what programs need to be delivered to upskill those youth leaving
- 11. Facilitate more education opportunities locally, especially TAFE
- 12. Partner with local business to provide opportunities for young adults to gain some work experience
- 13. Job Ready programs focussing on employer readiness including soft skills and working with young people to achieve their aspirations/Offer more trials of activities young people can do - projects, internships, work experience, volunteering opportunities...
- 14. Create an app for young adults to register work/study for potential employer access
- 15. Use technology to connect young adults to further studies/job training

Entrepreneurship

- 16. Encourage and support entrepreneurial young people/Consider an incubator hub/Social Enterprise support
- 17. Community Working Hubs/A hub where people can go to use an office space to run a business

18. Facilitate easy access to grants or training subsidies

Staying Connected

19. Mentoring - Alumni of young adults to act as a support network for school leavers/ Creating supports and connection for rural students with metropolitan students/Consider a community mentor program
20. Offer more communication pathways back to rural areas for those that move away
21. Bring your skills back campaign - encourage young people to study and come back to their local communities with their new skills
22. Opportunities available for young adults to stay connected to their community, even if they move away

Community Engagement

23. Youth participation/civic engagement opportunities (outside work hours)
24. Broker forums to listen to young people - evening BBQ at skate park
25. Community action networks - all agencies involved/ A focal point in schools for young adults to access support services in each town at a certain time each week/fortnight/month
26. Leadership program opportunities
27. Create optimism about the future- too much negative news/Positive messages - It's ok not to get it right the first time

Supporting Youth Voice

Across the region

1. North Central Youth Advisory Council/ Youth action network - project work
2. Let young people run Projects that encourage them to be: bold, courageous, world citizens, fun, responsible, socially inclusive, and diverse
3. Involve young people in roles where they can have a voice, eg. NCLLEN Board
4. Leadership and youth programs/Youth ambassadors
5. Youth Forums promoted (virtually to encourage participation across the whole region)/NC Regional student forums where 3 or 4 students from each school come together to offer their thoughts
6. Youth Groups in each major community to identify what they would like to see made available/created in their community

Within Schools

7. Youth have told us it is difficult to juggle studies, work and recreation and then fit in advocacy for youth - so how can we incorporate it into school studies?
8. Embed practice of engaging student voice in schools – develop model/framework
9. Running a student leaders forum including student leaders at each school. Promote ideas, identify relevant issues etc
10. Well trained youth support to come into schools and lead youth/ Capacity Building/Strong youth leaders from successful groups to help young people form their own

Consultation

11. Asking young people and children how they would like to be consulted or have an input to important discussions or decisions in their community.
12. Constant engagement with the youth, like what we have done today on a periodic basis/Think tanks often and in varied settings/Regular focus groups with children/young people around specific questions or ideas
13. Ask them in age-appropriate ways for their opinions, help, support/Create safe opportunities/places where their voices are encouraged, valued, and acted upon/Listen to what they want and support them to achieve it
14. Have an email phone number we can just message/Anonymous messaging/Chat rooms

Opportunities to be heard

15. Have virtual platforms on discrete issues/ Provide a platform for young/young representation/young leaders

16. Create regular and routine opportunities for young people to interact with agencies at varying levels
17. Primary school-student work expo - artwork, reading clips, published stories - not a competition between

Participation

18. Have experience days where NCLLEN gets people from the community involved in change
19. Parliament Youth Leaders/Participation in Duke of Edinburgh program
20. Involve child/youth voice in ALL important community issues – not just youth topics
21. Celebrate diversity/Encourage young people to be proud of who they are, especially if they don't fit into apparent social norms

Capacity Building

22. Upskill organisations in youth participation/Develop a framework/toolkit
23. Have Councillors come into schools and run an information session (like Defence Force) to encourage participation
24. Encourage community groups to invite a youth representative
25. Educate youth on their power to bring about change/encourage activism

Community Connectivity

26. Engaging the youth with the older community
27. Identifying key people in communities as advocates
28. Involvement young people in future community planning/Shire - invitations to community forums

Promotion/Voice

29. Promote youth activity in the local media to give them more confidence
30. Promote the change they do achieve/Showcase when voice has led to action and impact
31. Youth voice in the media/Local radio station - Pyramid Hill has a radio license in town

Potential future Partners suggested by Focus Group participants and survey respondents included:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • ACSTA – Aquatics | • Employers/Business community/Industry & Retail Groups | • Neighbourhood Houses |
| • Arts Victoria/arts & Creative Groups | • Farmers/farming groups | • Parents Groups |
| • Bendigo Bank and their Community Banks | • FREEZA | • philanthropy |
| • Beyond Blue | • Friends of Kooyoora State Park- Cultural Awareness | • Police |
| • Black Dog | • Headspace | • Progress Associations |
| • BlazeAid/RuralAid | • Health Services across the catchment | • Reachout |
| • CFA/CERT | • Home school network | • Schools - Primary and Secondary |
| • Choirs and singing groups | • Landcare | • School SRC committees (student voices heard) |
| • Church/Youth groups | • LGBTQI Community leaders | • School teaching staff (as well as Principals) |
| • Climate change organisations | • Local government | • Service Groups (Rotary/ Lions, Progress Assoc.) |
| • Community Health | • Local sporting clubs | • Sporting Clubs |
| • Community Theatre | • Local, State and Federal government | • TAFE |
| • Department of Education | | • Universities |
| • Department of Human Services | | • Volunteer organisations |

YOUNG PEOPLE



Our Focus Group with young people took place on 31 August with 10 young people from across the North Central region (Buloke-4, Loddon-4, St Arnaud-2).

Reflection

Knowledge about the North Central LLEN: participants did not have a good understanding of the work of the North Central LLEN with two indicating “nothing”. Others chose words like “Pathways and opportunities for the future of young people”

Top Six issues for young people: Participants identified the following –

1. Bullying
2. Social isolation/connectivity
3. Lack of youth organisations/diversity
4. Mental Health
5. Education/School
6. Environmental issues



Defining success and support: Participants were asked to define what the terms “success” and “support” meant to them – what would they need to achieve success, and what would support look like. Here is what they said:

Support:

- Has your back/Willing to help (5)
- Check-in/Asks/answers questions/guide (3)
- Communication/contact (4)
- Caring/paying attention/Understanding (2)
- Trust/No judgement (3)

Success:

- Achieve your goals (5)
- Happy with life & job/Enjoy what you do (4)
- Wealthy (4)
- Satisfaction -liking everything you do (2)

Looking Forward

Focus Group Participants were asked to share their ideas on future projects, initiatives, and activities that could be considered as part of the new NCLLEN Strategic Plan which would create opportunities to support all children and young people on their way to success in education, work and life:

Primary School	Secondary School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After School Clubs • Creative Arts • Explore career pathways – diverse and no barriers • Mental health support • Resilience • Support gender equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health support • Youth mentors • Assistance with schoolwork/Tutors • Freezas and other social events • Promote extra-curricular programs • Exposure to different sports

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing knowledge • More learning in environments other than schools • No gender stereotypes/Not telling us we cannot do things because it's too girly or masculine • More community engagement • Resilience project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More exposure to art and cultural activities – music, theatre groups, drama • Exposure to city life and vice versa • Social calendar of events (diverse) • Gatherings across the north central region to provide opportunities to meet new people from other towns • Excursions with kids from different schools/ Cluster Days/Camps with other schools • More whole of school activities • Meetings like this • More elective choices from at an earlier age • Opportunities for kids to meet others in the same boat- socialise at gatherings
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Careers and Pathways</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities on different types of jobs so u know what u want to do • Told earlier about subject selections and pathways offered/More Information nights/ talking more about TAFE, VCE and VCAL • Earlier exposure to career advisors • Extra work experience, NCLLEN could provide opportunities for students to travel beyond Bendigo/Ballarat • Have more work experiences like two a year and one in year 9 • Bringing in business and careers from the wider cluster communities • Different speakers that have experience in a variety of jobs/More guest speakers at schools to tell us what certain jobs are about/Talking to business owners • Career seminars • More talk about scholarships for further study • More stem programs/Promote STEM • More subjects at NCTTC • Careers Expo needed to be better • More careers areas for broader horizons/ Broader horizons for all year levels • Mentor program • Showing places for work placement/SBAT • Information about starting/owning a business/Entrepreneurs • Being able to talk to people in jobs or apprenticeships 	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Young Adults</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speakers (young adults) who have struggled with their transitions and how they overcome their challenges • Mental health support • Life skills – How to live on your own, bills, taxes, renting, budgeting, getting accommodation legal documents • Financial support, for example, helping people open bank accounts, information nights on budgeting and managing living expenses responsibly • University support – courses, jobs, accommodation • More information regarding where to go from year 12 • How to build good relationships with those around you who can help you • Help get jobs • Tech start-ups • Support with potential drug and alcohol abuse, • Understanding the importance of work-life balance and how to achieve this

Supporting Youth Voice

- Youth Council
- Have an email phone number we can just message/Anonymous messaging/Chat rooms
- Leadership and youth programs
- Having groups that you can openly talk about your problems to
- Shires provide opportunities for an insight into youth outlook on the community
- Ensure the wider community knows about the NCLLEN and how they can contact you and if they wish to stay anonymous how they can do that
- Constant engagement with the youth, like what we have done today on a periodic basis
- Talking to other students from other schools
- Celebrate diversity
- Youth ambassadors
- Have experience days where NCLLEN gets people from the community involved in change
- Engaging the youth with the older community
- Take responsibility - be a leader and put yourself out there
- Have more opportunities within school to express ourselves/Home groups talk about it and run activities
- Have adults at school to talk to about relationships/problems that you feel safe with
- Give and take/Giving the two quietest people a voice
- Involve young people in roles where they can have a voice, eg. NCLLEN Board

INDUSTRY

Our "Industry" Focus Group took place on 27 August with 10 industry/employer representatives from across the region.

Reflection

Relationship between LLEN and this sector: Participants were mixed about how well they perceived the North Central LLEN interacts with local industry, with half indicating it was poor or there was room for improvement – *"We hear a bit about the LLEN's presence but don't see so much action on the ground - it may be just communication or promotion needed."*

When asked how we could strengthen our partnership, the feedback was that we look at building a culture that values both University pathways AND trade pathways; and a better understanding of what local businesses do (and offer) and the career opportunities available. Another participant commented that it would be good if we could develop stronger relationships with industry so there is a better understanding of what the NCLLEN can offer as a partner as well as creating awareness of what employers can offer young people

Perceptions of the North Central LLEN: most participants identified the North Central LLEN to be a *"Education and employment pathway organisation"*.



EDUCATION SECTOR



Our “Education” Focus Group took place on 13 August with five Principals from schools within the North Central Cluster (in addition, three Principals completed the survey).

Reflection

Relationship between LLEN and this sector: Participants were extremely happy with the relationship between the North Central LLEN and their school - *“The NCLLEN continually provides opportunities for a broad range of students of different ages.”*

When asked how we could strengthen our partnership, the feedback was that we consider expanding our work to include younger year levels, look at avenues to develop the social capacity of young adults in addition to the careers and pathway work and strengthen engagement between education and industry.

Perceptions of the North Central LLEN: all participants had a good understanding of the current work of the North Central LLEN, however mostly limited to the work we do in our Careers and Pathways role.

Top Five issues for young people: Principals identified the following –

1. Mental health
2. Social isolation/Connectivity
3. Employment opportunities (particularly within the region)
4. Education accessibility
5. Career opportunities



Looking Forward

Focus Group Participants were asked to share their ideas on future projects, initiatives, and activities that could be considered as part of the new NCLLEN Strategic Plan which would create opportunities to support all children and young people on their way to success in education, work and life:

Early Years	Middle Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with health professionals to support families, schools • Promoting and connecting early years intervention services • Literacy and numeracy support programs for early years children (both pre-school and whilst at school) • Looking at support programs for students who are already showing signs of disengagement from education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring • Leadership Programs, forums, guest speakers, training • Hands on learning opportunities • Service provision to support families with children in this age group • Celebrate and promote where young people have been successful • Model effective student voice • Re-engagement programs • Increased intervention programs around academic and social needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist to identify disempowered families and partner to develop skills to develop capacity and promote value of education
<h3>Careers and Pathways</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue current career education programs (MIPs, FLO, L2P) Community programs with students not attending school Access to a broader variety of further education and employment programs for the NC region 	<h3>Young Adults</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for more government funding A focal point in schools for young adults to access support services in each town at a certain time each week/fortnight/month Promote local employment opportunities – traineeships, apprenticeships, etc Connecting with major employers and working with them to encourage employment opportunities for young adults Continue MIPs style support for this age group This is the age group that will be most affected by COVID and will need extra support. Less employment opportunities what courses could be promoted in our local communities that could strengthen their employment opportunities.

<h3>Supporting Youth Voice</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Central Youth Council It often needs a project for them to be involved in which will lead to successful outcomes that can be celebrated. NC Regional student forums where 3 or 4 students from each school come together to offer their thoughts. Running a student leaders forum including student leaders at each school. Promote ideas, identify relevant issues etc We need to create structures where their ideas are not stifled before they have a chance to develop - they need to be able to get traction - there is too much red tape

Potential future Partners suggested by focus group participants included schools, Local Government, Industry/local Employers, and Health Services.

When we asked what words/group of words they would like to be able to use to describe the North Central LLEN in 2025 (following implementation of the new Strategic Plan), the following comments were received:

- Brokers • Exemplary • Creative • Progressive • Integral
- Valuable • Resource • Innovative • Successful
- Connected to local needs • Creating opportunities
- Champions Connecting young people to the future



EARLY YEAR PROVIDERS

Our “Early Years” Focus Group took place on 18 August with four participants including two Maternal and Child Health Nurses and two Playgroup Facilitators.



Reflection

Relationship between LLEN and this sector: Participants were most familiar with our Strong Families Strong Children program which received very positive feedback, however it was noted that most were unaware of what else the NCLLEN does.

When asked how we could strengthen our partnership, the feedback was that we consider ways to keep communication open, especially what families want and need; look at ways to share all activities for children and families across the region so that everyone could attend; and provide information or education that is pertinent to the community's needs.

Perceptions of the North Central LLEN: participants were not really sure about the role of the NCLLEN - “Feel like I don't have a concrete idea of what they do”, but that they worked with the Shire and the community.

Top Five issues for young people: Participants identified the following –

1. Access to childcare
2. Lack of after school/holiday programs
3. Availability of health services
4. Transport
5. Research



Looking Forward

Focus Group Participants were asked to share their ideas on future projects, initiatives, and activities that could be considered as part of the new NCLLEN Strategic Plan which would create opportunities to support all children and young people on their way to success in education, work and life:

Early Years	Middle Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time Dad’s Group • Parent Groups (not just Mum’s groups) • Swimming lessons for all ages • Linking with the Elderly • Free transport to access health services • Community Gardens – visible and inclusive. Help promote healthy eating, where food comes from, sense of achieve and life skills • Able to access activities in our local area, eg. Mother Goose, Story Time, Music Session, Gymbaroo, Shake Rattle and Read • Childcare – flexible options: dedicated site, funded in home care, family day care • A system approach to community rather than individual needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to support positive mental health • Programs to encourage & support hearing the voice of children • Mentoring • Involve children with Town Committees • Having a variety of community leaders that are recognised • Giving children a range of opportunities across different topics, eg. Science, maths, technology, and also other education programs, maybe trades, agriculture • Hands on learning opportunities • Scholarship Programs • Healthy Eating Cooking Classes

Careers and Pathways

- Different and interesting speakers about a broad range of careers
- Being flexible – no wrongs, all opportunities
- Inspirational speakers attending schools
- Mentors are invaluable

Young Adults

- Stay connected group for school leavers
- Social enterprises
- Investment in physical structures that promote social opportunities
- Life skills
- Community Working Hubs/ A hub where people can go to use an office space to run a business
- Assistance with how to navigate paperwork, budgeting, renting, dealing with red tape
- Let young people know about opportunities locally and regionally
- Healthy relationship communication around choices sex education

Supporting Youth Voice

- Plant the seed. What is possible
- Youth Centre – have a child present always
- Provide childcare at information sessions/meetings
- Think tanks often and in varied settings
- We need to be willing to listen if we ask for children and young people’s ideas
- Work with families

When we asked what words/group of words they would like to be able to use to describe the North Central LLEN in 2025 (following implementation of the new Strategic Plan), the following comments were received:

- All children matter • Listens to all voices • Dynamic
- Building a better future • Vibrant • Innovative
- Approachable • Great community partnerships
- Participation • Creating better education outcomes
- Family approach • Active • Responsive
- Empowering rural communities
- Supporting children and young people to thrive in our rural communities
- A community organisation building strong communities 0-21



HEALTH CARE



Our "Health" Focus Group took place on 19 August with four participants representing different health care providers within our region.

Reflection

Relationship between LLEN and this sector: Participants felt there could be more opportunities for the LLEN to work with health care providers across the region – "I think we are some missing some collaboration opportunities in program areas" at the same time acknowledging there was a "mutua(lly) supportive relationship in supporting initiatives".

When asked how we could strengthen our partnership, the feedback was that our stakeholders needed "more understanding of what NCLLEN can do with our organisation to engage & support children & families" and there was an opportunity to "create a platform whereby we collaborative in a planned, consultative way to complement each other's work. (Inc schools and other key stakeholders, Shire)".

"There is always an opportunity to work together to engage & support young people over time relative to what is happening in the area, region & world"

Perceptions of the North Central LLEN: all participants had a reasonable understanding of the current work of the North Central LLEN – "skilled leaders in the youth and early years space in the rural catchment".

Top Five issues for young people: Participants identified the following –

1. Mental Health
2. Social Isolation/Community Connectivity
3. Employment Uncertainty
4. Lack of Opportunities
5. Health Equity



Looking Forward

Focus Group Participants were asked to share their ideas on future projects, initiatives, and activities that could be considered as part of the new NCLLEN Strategic Plan which would create opportunities to support all children and young people on their way to success in education, work and life:

Early Years

- Rural Families receive the support, childcare, respite, education, health services so that they can support positive engagement in education and health. Wrap around service. Equity based.
- Breaking the generational poverty cycle/Working with young parents to change ingrained habits
- Focus on connect with and connecting in Aboriginal community parents and children

Middle Years

- Strengthen connectedness – an important protective factor
- Support diversity
- Focus on the development of whole child
- Vulnerable time, onset of mental health, sexuality exploration, etc
- Speech pathology assessment for each child
- Give young people a purpose and vision about why education is important

- Link with Unborn Children Project – prevention from the earliest opportunity
- Regular opportunities for Telehealth with support onsite from a qualified person ie: maternal health, for things like antenatal classes support, first time mum's/families
- Link with SMPCP catchment LGAs around early years
- Parenting programs that don't only focus on first child (all babies and children are different)

- Parents/carers/significant others are enlisted at many opportunities to be on young people teams!
- Early pickup of barriers to education
- Social connectivity outside of things like local support
- Health eating and other positive health initiatives

Careers and Pathways

- 1:1 opportunities for actual discussion about options pathways choices, too many in the group don't chase their passion because they feel like they can't do it. There's a gap between the things like subject selection & long-term goals.
- The school curriculum needs to be aligned with future job opportunities
- Self-esteem issues need to be considered
- More time needs to be spent on social and emotional learning. But how do we access/evaluate that in an education sense!
- I think there's some ingrained expectations about the pathways of youth that are thought of as successful in our rural communities.
- Bring tertiary opportunities closer

Young Adults

- Some sort of focus on program/s to give them the tools to have a successful work / life balance. At this age they don't understand the importance of this, but the reality is this is a huge key to successful careers, happy young adults, & good mental health
- Keep them on the radar as they are often forgotten once they leave school.
- Life skills/ Financial management/Making sensible choices/Surviving the barrage of 18, 21 celebrations, getting licences, taking risks, making choices
- Highlight the importance and value of these young people and what they have to offer the community.
- How do we engage with this age stage? I love the HeadStart model
- If they leave give them opportunities to come back and share their knowledge
- How do you form your identity at this age? Through job or study. What if you are not in either, what about those young people?
- It's ok not to get it right the first time

Supporting Youth Voice

- Tough question. Whatever we do must not be tokenism. Must be meaningful
- Identifying key people in communities as advocates
- Get rid of the group mentality that a whole class of kids can sit together & make individual decisions.
- Do we actually understand what youth voice is? It's not necessarily leadership skills. They often get used in unison.
- How do we foster safe spaces for youth voice? Multiple times in multiple ways.
- Self determination

Careers and Pathways

- Mentoring programs/Provide mentors and training – ability to be flexible
- Try to work more closely with school leaders, both students and teachers
- Have young people involved in planning and delivering careers programming
- Strengthen focus on skills needed for work
- More opportunities to try a variety of careers or education options ahead of making decisions for their future
- Career education earlier and more often on a student's journey
- More young workers that young people can engage with
- More L2P support
- Intensive work experience for disengaged students (don't know what they don't know)
- TAFE & University hubs with "taster" programs for work/education experience
- Have support groups from Universities/ Trades come and talk to students
- Support with fundamentals - getting a licence, enrolling to vote, Centrelink, further education, scholarship applications/Mock interviews, resume, cover letter support
- Strengthen the esteem of VCAL and VET – not all pathways lead to University
- Programs focussed on building everyday confidence and mental health resilience
- SRCs within schools to highlight the needs and wants of young people
- Work together with industry about what they need/Support local businesses to provide traineeships and apprenticeships
- Exposure to different business types
- Local University
- Don't let disengaging students fall through the gaps/ Camps to reach disengaged and unmotivated students
- Talk to NH's about what programs need to be delivered to upskill those youth leaving
- Offer short course opportunities
- Local industry speakers in schools
- Bring in interesting and engaging speakers to encourage entrepreneurship
- Link to volunteering to gain experience

Young Adults

- Expand Young Adult to 18-25
- Mental health support
- Support with diversity
- Mentoring - Alumni of young adults to act as a support network for school leavers/ Creating supports and connection for rural students with metropolitan students
- Support with transitions/Programs like "live life" to support transition/Life skills support to prepare for independent living/Life skills for health and wellbeing
- Support moving away from home
- Keep support open – don't just turn off when they are 21/maintain contact/support if they are keen
- Link I with Uni/TAFE/Trade support before they go there
- Continue follow up after youth have left the community for the next stages of their live.
- Continued support to find what fits, better public transport options to work/study away from home but live at home
- Offer more communication pathways back to rural areas for those that move away
- Youth participation/civic engagement opportunities (outside work hours)
- Continued involvement with community planning and events for young people
- Develop more career opportunities in rural areas/Volunteering/cadet opportunities
- Overseas exchange/program information
- Support for employment seeking skills
- Remove the stigma for those that don't want to leave
- NH to provide some courses for free through ACFE/Talk to NH about what programs need to be delivered to upskill those youth leaving
- Support getting Centrelink details, ambulance cover etc. All these things are often overlooked when first leavers move out of home

Supporting Youth Voice

- Youth Council
- Parliament Youth Leaders/Participation in Duke of Edinburgh program
- We need youth participation and voice – listen and take action
- Well trained youth support to come into schools and lead youth/ Capacity Building
- Strong youth leaders from successful groups to help young people form their own
- Upskill organisations in youth participation
- Sit down with children and young people, ask for their opinions, deliver on their ideas
- Let them share their stories and make sharing stories fund
- Build trust through support and mentoring
- Build on sense of community belonging
- Involve child/youth voice in ALL important community issues – not just youth topics
- Youth views on sport and how we can redesign sport to increase participation
- Make it “cool” to be a leader!
- Have Councillors come into schools and run an information session (like Defence Force) to encourage participation
- Support student leaders and encourage young people
- Promote the change they do achieve
- Encourage community groups to invite a youth representative
- Listen, implement change through mentoring
- Encourage young people to be proud of who they are, especially if they don't fit into apparent social norms
- Develop a framework/toolkit
- The fear of being the representative of the whole community youth is a blocker so perhaps confidence building training.
- Ask their opinions regularly but don't expect them to implement change alone
- Funding to support children and young people to participate in sport/activities
- Creating buddies at school between senior /junior students to have their voices heard
- Youth have told us it is difficult to juggle studies, work and recreation and then fit in advocacy for youth - so how can we incorporate it into school studies?
- Encourage them to be proud of who they are, especially if they don't
- Recognition of youth participation in community (eg. awards)



- Supporting early years in school setting
- Parental and school engagement
- Community connections with early primary school
- Nonsporting recreational facilities
- Facebook groups targeting parents

Careers and Pathways

- Highlight local career opportunities
- Showcase the achievements of past students to highlight what can be achieved
- Bring parents along with the current thinking around careers and pathways
- Consideration for agriculture as industry development that is not only farming but involving technology, business management, product development, systems and logistics, innovative thinking, ideas, communication
- Support/encourage/educate young people on local opportunities
- Encourage partnerships with local industry/More traineeship and apprenticeship options

Young Adults

- Support transition into workforce or study
- Support for distance education
- More education opportunities locally, especially TAFE
- Provide proactive support to employers to offer traineeships and apprenticeships
- Partner with local business to provide opportunities for young adults to gain some work experience
- Support with applying for jobs and preparing for interviews
- Highlight the importance of the soft skills
- Employer readiness/capacity to support young employees achieve their aspirations
- Encourage and support entrepreneurial young people
- Entrepreneurial thinking, development, and testing ideas – social enterprise
- Encourage entrepreneurs at an early age, maybe an incubator hub?
- Encourage young people to study and come back to their local communities with their new skills
- Create optimism about the future- too much negative news
- Seek grant/funding opportunities for youth ideas/entrepreneurial

Supporting Youth Voice

- Provide a platform for young/young representation/young leaders
- Have virtual platforms on discrete issues
- Create regular and routine opportunities for young people to interact with agencies at varying levels
- Let them lead and celebrate their success
- Educate youth on their power to bring about change
- Let young people run with their own project
- Youth Forums promoted (virtually to encourage participation across the whole region)
- Youth Council

Looking Forward

Focus Group Participants were asked to share their ideas on future projects, initiatives, and activities that could be considered as part of the new NCLLEN Strategic Plan which would create opportunities to support all children and young people on their way to success in education, work and life:

Early Years

- Strengthen transitions- the greater the level of absence at Kinder & Prep increases risk of disengagement at later years
- Service integration is critical - advocate for more early years hubs connected in schools
- Real stakeholder engagement by schools and early childhood
- Support parents to know how they can play a role in being a child's first educator
- Play, play, play
- Dynamic, accessible childcare is available
- Free wi-fi for disadvantaged families. After hours Hubs in schools for services
- Keep the focus of the LLEN on families supporting children
- Coordination of agencies
- Embed stronger connection with early childhood education
- Preconception, pregnancy, and babies- support is provided for healthy mothers, children, and families
- Building parent capacity/One on one support is given to families to help
- Coordination of innovative community participation while in Covid land
- Explore the impact and opportunities to address gender stereotypes
- Keep the discourse local and keep in mind comparison with other communities who have not paid attention to local capacity and strengths
- Pay Kinder teachers more - same as University Lecturers

Middle Years

- Middle years is all about aspiration - the concept of work career awareness, industry mentoring, understanding the employment opportunities out there, transition from primary to secondary, adolescent mentoring, self-constructed curriculum etc
- Change early secondary years of schooling - too much disconnect between students & teachers (and the school) due to structural arrangements
- Borrowable wi-fi in homes. Digital hubs in libraries so kids can play with new tech
- Have family service practitioners working within schools to support families
- Building teacher capacity to differentiate to cater for a range of abilities
- Find ways to understand how kids are tracking in the middle years by asking them, and their teachers-then act and anticipate their trajectory
- Further support for mental health practitioners in schools
- Hands on learning opportunities
- Improve student experience of transition to secondary school/Improve communication between primary and secondary educators
- Coordinate innovative community activities so kids can make and maintain relationships with adults outside of school and family in Covid times
- Greater understanding about the reasons why students disengage from education
- Review education system: greater access to alternative delivery/Completely change the education system..../throw away textbooks

Careers and Pathways

- Strengthen social and emotional learning to build resilience. This will support capacity for young people to be flexible, adaptive, and capable in the workforce
- Work experience/Build Capabilities/The "soft" skills are powerful for success

Young Adults

- They need financial support - Youth allowance must be automatically given to regional kids living away to study... and they should also be able earn as much as they can without it being capped
- End study jobs mismatch

Looking Forward

Survey Participants were asked to share their ideas on future projects, initiatives, and activities that could be considered as part of the new NCLLEN Strategic Plan which would create opportunities to support all children and young people on their way to success in education, work and life:

Early Years

- Free childcare, kinder (5 days), before and after school care, facilitated Playgroups in every town
- Specialist early years teams (parenting support, speech therapists, OTs, social workers, paediatricians) in every town
- Programs that build strong family connections
- Re-imagining early years and schools as places that embrace diversity and build a culture of inclusivity.
- "Parent club" get togethers during Pre-School with a social aspect and learning
- Support/intervention services for at risk families
- Online programs for children and families
- Transition support - kinder to school (children and parents)
- Check-ins with new school families
- Collaboration across preschools to share best practice/wisdom and support all areas of early literacy
- Developing creative partnerships to broaden opportunities/Community arts projects for children and families
- The arts, music, cultural connections, and sport are free and easily accessed by all
- Each child has a navigator to connect them into the supports/resources they need
- Enhanced transition for families moving to school - assigning buddy family maybe?
- Foundation skills - reading, speech, etc
- Health and wellbeing programs
- Full health screenings before attending Pre-School and then school
- Address mental health issues for mums
- Kids mental health programs
- More structured playgroup with greater learning outcomes
- Mothers groups and support from birth
- Transport network so children can attend activities where lack of transport is a barrier
- Reliable access to the internet

Middle Years

- Partnership with schools/teachers to provide support to those identified at risk
- Mentor programs
- Projects that build social skills/self-confidence/self esteem
- Early career education - give youth an opportunity to explore diverse options/ Opportunities to engage in hands on learning in a variety of workplaces
- Youth groups - specific learning outcomes
- Technology - funding support
- Community involvement projects (Yrs 5-8)
- More options for non-sporting youth
- Programs with a focus on the Arts
- Each child has a navigator who connects them to the supports/resources they need
- Additional support for those children and young people struggling with school
- Mental health intervention/services/ education
- Commitment of local businesses to partnerships to support young people
- Improve digital connection - at risk families
- More opportunities to engage in social gatherings (eg. night cinema, BMX track)
- Study/learning support - tutors, techniques
- The arts, music, cultural connections, and sport are free and easily accessed by all
- Resources for children and young people to remain connected with their peers - sports uniforms, footy boots, laptops, etc.
- Encourage use of Library opportunities. It's not all about the books!
- Student council - ownership of how their town evolves
- Specialist middle years teams (parenting support, speech therapists, OTs, social workers, paediatricians) in every town
- Opportunities for all youth to be included - sport, the arts, volunteering, etc.
- Lobby for better transport to broaden opportunities (very difficult)
- Life skills – budget, resilience, etc.

Careers and Pathways

- As much exposure to careers/jobs as possible - first hand: "If you can't see it, you can't believe it!"
- Positive/Broader work experience options
- Local Career Education expos
- A variety of industry visitors throughout the year to school to offer career ideas
- Expand the availability, affordability, and accessibility of high-quality work options
- Each child has a navigator to connect them to the supports/resources they need
- Build understanding there are many pathways to achieve goals
- Health expos
- University/Tertiary visitors to inform students of different options
- Expand the scope of career choices
- Greater support with home study
- Continue MIPs/Careers planning interviews
- Partnerships with a range of businesses so young people can experience a variety of work options before they leave school
- Inspirational guest speakers (that would be difficult/costly for one school to organise)
- Being able to do learners and license testing/work related courses such as first aid/RSA etc at school
- Face-to-face interviews once ATARs are released
- Specialist young people teams (parenting support, speech therapists, OTs, social workers, paediatricians) in every town
- Supporting youth to be entrepreneurs/ Business education/Student shop to make and sell items/services
- Mental health services
- Improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of ICT for RRR schools,
- Visits to local businesses organised by LLEN to show off career opportunities
- Continuing advocacy for better internet
- Support RRR communities to implement innovative approaches to education
- LLEN Presence at subject selection and VTAC information evenings
- Young people celebrated and connected to pathways aligned to strengths/ aspirations.

Young Adults

- Support to leave home to explore opportunities - study, travel, work
- Work experience opportunities
- Coming back after Uni-how young people can move back to the area if they want
- Lifeskills - help with access to Centrelink and other organisations
- Assisting with finding accommodation if moving for study
- Support RRR communities to implement innovative approaches to education
- TAFE courses in town/support with accommodation for block studies
- Create employment opportunities for young people
- Young people celebrated/connected to pathways align to strengths & aspirations.
- Build awareness of opportunities available 'locally' - even in obscure areas of work
- Ongoing career advice/further career testing- skill development/Pathway support
- Mental health/Drug & Alcohol Services
- Create an app for young adults to register work/study for potential employer access
- Broker forums to listen to young people - evening BBQ at skate park
- Community action networks - all agencies involved
- Higher education - online learning support
- Safe places created for young adults
- Opportunities available for young adults to stay connected to their community, even if they move away
- Consider a community mentor program
- Digital connections - newsletters
- Better public transport options
- Resume writing classes/support
- Each child has a navigator who connects them to the supports/resources they need
- Use technology to connect young adults to further studies/job training
- Leadership program opportunities
- Trades opportunities - apprenticeships, certificates, micro-credentials
- Entrepreneurship focus/Meet town needs/ Civic life embraced/links to volunteering
- Resilience Projects

Supporting Youth Voice

- Projects etc that encourage young people to be: bold, courageous, world citizens, fun, responsible, socially inclusive, and diverse
- Youth Forums
- A Youth Council/Youth Advisory Group
- Showcase achievements
- helping facilitate greater communication between schools
- Have an app that is promoted at school / footy clubs etc where any ideas / requests are posted
- Local based projects - environment, tourism etc
- Youth action network - project work
- Citizen of the year in each town
- primary school-student work expo - artwork, reading clips, published stories - not a competition between schools but a combined expo of what our kids are achieving
- Focus Group/Consultation/Survey
- I think these ideas should be driven by young people
- Youth Groups in each major community to identify what they would like to see made available/created in their community.
- Encourage activism
- opportunities for Youths to participate in camps, activities, joint adventures
- Student activities - designed by students
- Ask schools to use their student captains/other representatives to get ideas/feedback
- I think for that to happen safe places need to be created
- Regular focus groups with children/young people around specific questions or ideas
- Know and understand what is important to them
- Youth voice in the media
- Local radio station - Pyramid Hill has a radio license in town
- include them in running projects
- I think we need to nurture every young person
- Asking young people and children how they would like to be consulted or have an input to important discussions or decisions in their community.
- Protect them at all cost
- Mentoring program
- I think role models are important and that an investment in young people will create generations of aspirational young people
- Use of social media for good
- Shire - invitations to community forums
- something to replace Freeza events as the have negative impact

Potential future Partners suggested by survey respondents included:

- Arts Victoria/arts & Creative Groups
- Bendigo Bank and their Community Banks
- CFA/CERT
- Choirs and singing groups
- Church/Youth groups
- Climate change organisations
- Community Health
- Community Theatre
- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services
- Dja Wurrung people/Traditional elders
- Early Childhood services
- Employers/Business community/Industry & Retail Groups
- Employment Agencies
- Friends of Kooyoorra State Park- Cultural Awareness
- Headspace
- Health Services across the catchment
- Home school network
- Local government
- Local sporting clubs
- Local, State and Federal government
- Maternal and Child Health
- Men’s Sheds
- Mental Health support groups
- Navigator Program
- Neighbourhood Houses
- Progress Associations
- Schools - Primary and Secondary
- School SRC committees (student voices heard)
- School teaching staff (as well as Principals)
- Service Clubs
- Shire Councils
- TAFE
- Universities
- Volunteer organisations
- Youth Organisations

When we asked what words/group of words they would like to be able to use to describe the North Central LLEN in 2025 (following implementation of the new Strategic Plan), the following comments were received:

- Effective • Collaborative • Inclusive
- Access • Equity • Vibrant • Brave
- Youth centred • Well known • Caring
- Visionary • Aligned • Creative • Innovative
- Rock solid • Supporting community •
- Opportunities for all
- Stretches community • Successful
- transitions • Good Modelling frameworks
- Inspirational community leader •



- Connected communities/families • Equaliser - giving country kids an equal chance to support and services • Vibrant youth from cradle to car • Support for vulnerable children
- Increased rate of employment • Encompassing & supportive of all stakeholders
- Well-developed structures for sustainable partnerships •
- Next generation are leading the way in rural VIC • Works directly with youth
- Enhancer - enhancing the regional talent and opportunities regionally
- Career opportunities for young people • Working together, supporting each other
- Knowledgeable and supportive personnel • Education, employment, entrepreneurship
- Young people feeling happy, connected, and positive about the future
- Ensures no young person is left behind/every young person sees and experiences opportunities
- Filling the gaps - getting supports in place in a timely productive manner
- Increased level of education • Kids and young adults at the centre of what they do
- Rural VIC celebrate young people and listen deeply to their lived experience of community life