



Social Impact
In The Regions

Conference Communique 2023

“ If you live and work in the regions and you want to make a difference in your patch of the world (or bigger!), then this conference is for you! ”
Conference delegate



The inaugural Social Impact in the Regions conference was held at Pacific Bay resort in Coffs Harbour from 6 - 8 September, 2023, and was intentionally designed to explore a range of tools, techniques, beliefs and practices to better enable social impact practitioners to create more impact.



Three days of learning

- What is impact?
- Place-based design
- Funding social impact
- Impact measurement tools
- Building on your strengths
- Where to start
- Debt for growth
- Art therapy
- Guided conversation
- Design your podcast for impact
- Community engagement & co-design
- Boundaries, brave conversations and burnout
- Building a sustainable social enterprise
- Learning from the past, preparing for the future



“ I have just shared in three wonderful days of insight, education, inspiration and growth, surrounded by like minded people. Thank you.

Conference delegate

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165 delegates



Delegates from NSW, QLD,
TAS and WA



Diverse audience including
11% Youth Delegates and
7% Aboriginal Delegates



41% delegates represented
an NGO, 15% small business,
9% Aboriginal corporation



\$210K generated in local
economy

- 81 attended day 1, 6th September
- 165 attended day 2 (main conference day), 7th September
- 61 attended day 3, 8th September
- Social Impact in the Regions was produced and underwritten by social entrepreneur Kerry Grace, CEO of Evolve Group Network
- An advisory team including Jo Kelly, Jo Taylor, Jesse Taylor, Deb Samuels, Sue Currie and Angela Martin guided the development of the conference
- The inaugural conference ran with ZERO grants. It was funded by sales of tickets and sponsorship packages

Format

Over three days 39 speakers addressed the audience through masterclasses, a plenary session, workshops and creative activities.

Speakers

Day 1, 6th September

Tom Dawkins, StartSomeGood, Liz Keen, Headline Productions; Jo Taylor and Teddy Loveny, Siddle Family Foundation

Pitchfest tutorial, Cherie Topher YEP Careers; Pitchfest MC, Courtney Tune, Alt Collective

Day 2, 7th September

Kylie Flament, SECNA; Jay Boolkin, Social Impact Hub; Rebel Black, Bowabirds; Dr. Gregory Smith OAM, Professor Jack Beetson; Anita Tang; David Mackay, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and The Arts; Ryan Martin, Macleay Vocational College, Kinne Ring, CUC Macleay; Bree Katsamangos, Mission Australia; Andrew Davies, Becoming U; Liv Parker, Arts MNC; Dr. Madeleine Lawler, PHD; Nicole Weber; Blyde Nesor; Mitra Hussaini; Maura Luxford, Ride4aCure; Mark Daniels, While Box Enterprises; Manfred Bauer, SEFA; Leanne Butterworth; Emma Broomfield, Locale Consulting; Lily Norman; Kieren Dell, Majestic Cinemas; Stephanie Sims, Uko Ono; Jo Kelly and Sue Seager, Learning the Macleay; Marg Coutts

Thanks to the incredible performers coordinated by All One Under the Sun, Georgie and the Mastersonics and Alykat Creative

Day 3, 8th September

Blyde Nesor, Professional Coaching Solutions; Leanne Butterworth, Empathy First, Manfred Bauer, Gabrielle King and Anna Robertson, Sefa.

Also acknowledging MC Andy Saunders, Photographer, Jay Black, Videographer, Peter Clarke, conference assistant Tegan Swan and marketing support Kathryn Yarnold and Lisa McPherson

Themes

The five conference themes were:

- Housing
- Youth futures
- Preparedness
- Impact via creativity and
- Access and equity

Theme convenors gathered primary data from conference delegates utilising a variety of methods from creative activities to surveys to good old fashioned chats.

The theme convenors sought to find out who was doing what within each theme, what the current gaps were and what support was needed.

The collated theme information will be available on our website www.socialimpactintheregions.com.au very soon and some further opportunities for delegates to discuss threads of each theme will also arise in November.

Theme convenors

- Housing: Jesse Taylor and Steve Neale
- Youth pathways: Taz Devadass and Em Rigby
- Preparedness: Liz Jeremy and Danielle Griffin
- Impact via creativity: Olivia Parker
- Access and equity: Dr. Beth Fuller and Julie Ferguson

Delegates said

21% of the conference delegation have participated in an online survey after the conference. These delegates have told us:

- They felt more supported as a social impact practitioner post the conference and most felt very supported (before the conference most felt only moderately supported)
- While the speakers and audience (peers) contributed to the support, they felt the conference environment contributed most to their increased level of support
- All respondents felt more energised as a result of attending the conference (before the conference participants noted they felt half way between *exhausted* and *full of beans*)
- Most felt they were part of the conference community
- Networking with peers was by far the most prized element of the conference, this was echoed in the pre-conference survey
- The conference venue and location were accessible for most participants and several made a whole weekend of it
- **43% of survey participants had never accessed training in social impact before attending the conference**
- All survey participants found the workshops to be relevant to their learning needs
- Most participants thought the conference provided value for money and said they would attend again in 2024.
- To stay connected between conferences 70% of respondents would like to access an online communication platform, 67% would access online training, 64% would access in person training and 60% were interested in a way to promote their social impact work. Only 32% of respondents were interested in membership and associated discounts.

“

If you care about this conversation, come and meet your tribe!

Conference delegate

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What's next?

DATA INSIGHTS



9 November 1000–1100: Want to learn more about using data to measure your social impact? Join Data.au to learn more about their extensive platform and see some additional insights about this year's conference themes.
[Registrations essential](#)

REGIONAL SOCIAL IMPACT CONSULTATION



15 November 1000–1130: Social Impact in the Regions | Regional Consultation
What support do regional social impact practitioners need to further their work and volunteering in the regions? Join us for a webinar to share your thoughts. [Registrations essential](#)

National survey: Share your thoughts via our [national survey](#) (closes 20 November 2023)

CONFERENCE THEME REINVIGORATION



28 November 1000–1130: Got something more to contribute to this year's conference themes? Register and take part in the conversation AT and before the webinar. Guest speakers will also be present. This meeting will define our future actions in each of the 2023 conference themes. Stay tuned to Social Impact in the Regions socials for updates. [Registrations essential](#)

SOCIAL IMPACT IN THE REGIONS 2024



Conference 2024 will be held (venue TBC) 4–6 September 2024.

STAY CONNECTED



<https://www.facebook.com/socialimpactintheregions>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/socialimpactintheregionsalumni>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/social-impact-in-the-regions>

We are currently developing a new alumni communication channel, watch this space.



CONTACT

For all conference enquiries contact Evolve Group Network via kgrace@evolvenetwork.com.au