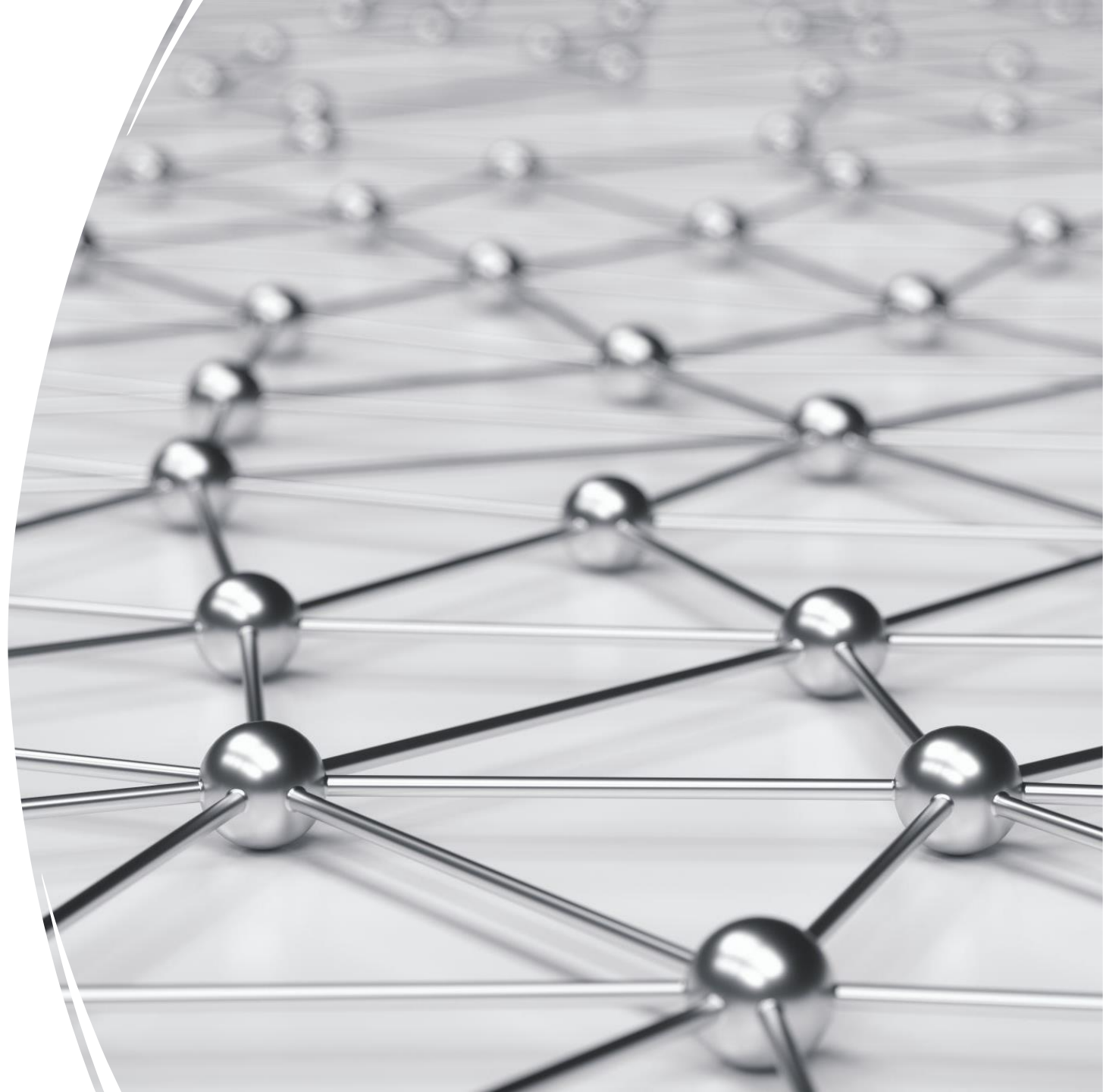




# Social impact in the Regions

---

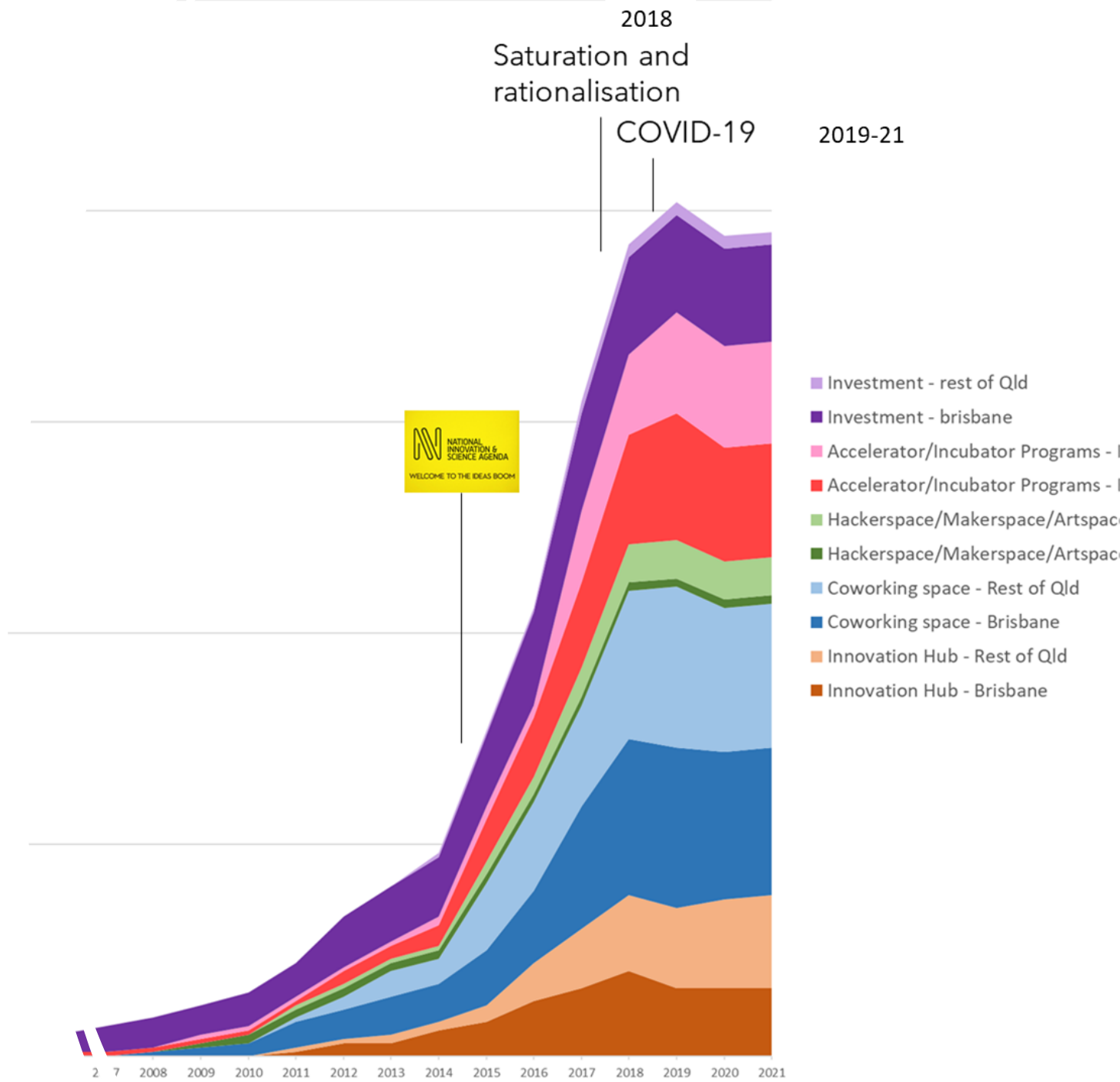
What is Ready  
Communities?



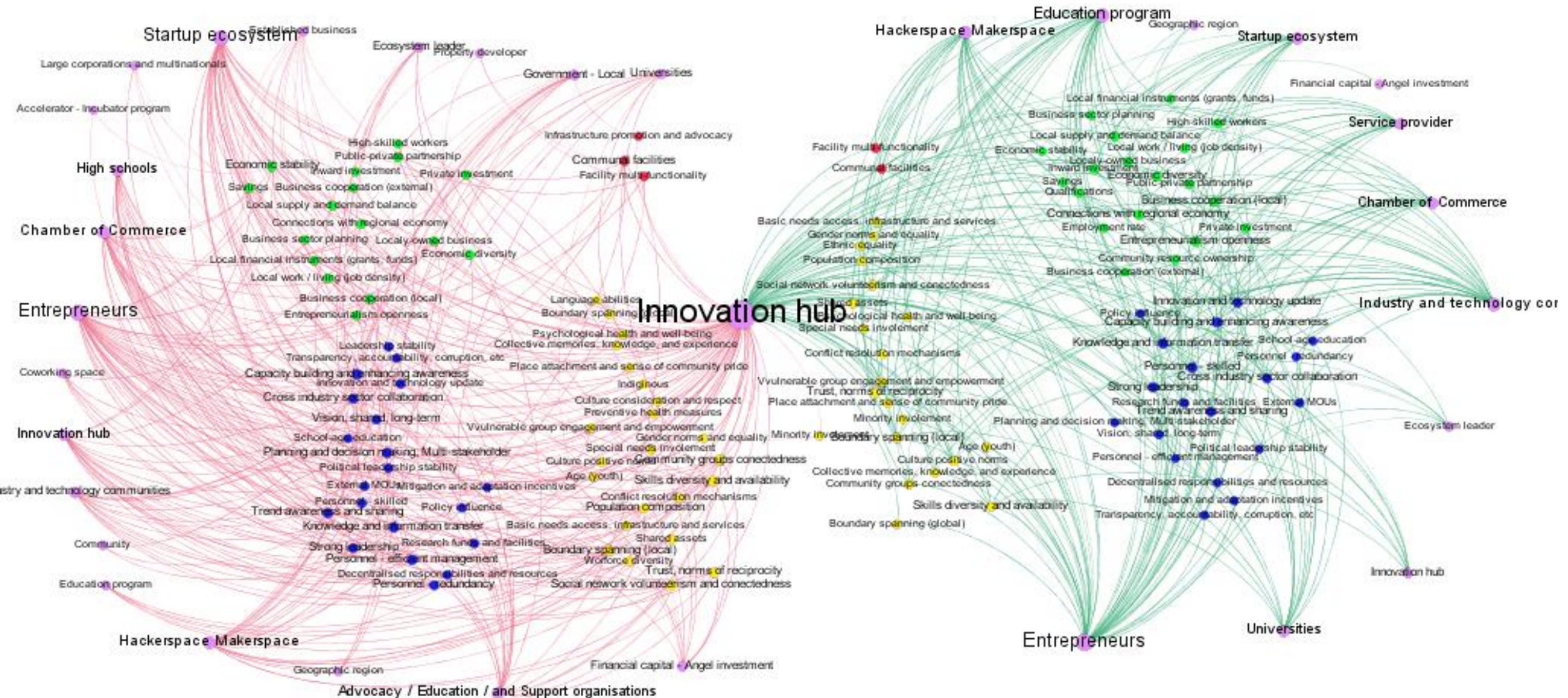


# Ecosystem growth

---



# Are we hurting as much as helping?



# How do we define success? And for who?

Health

Social  
Services

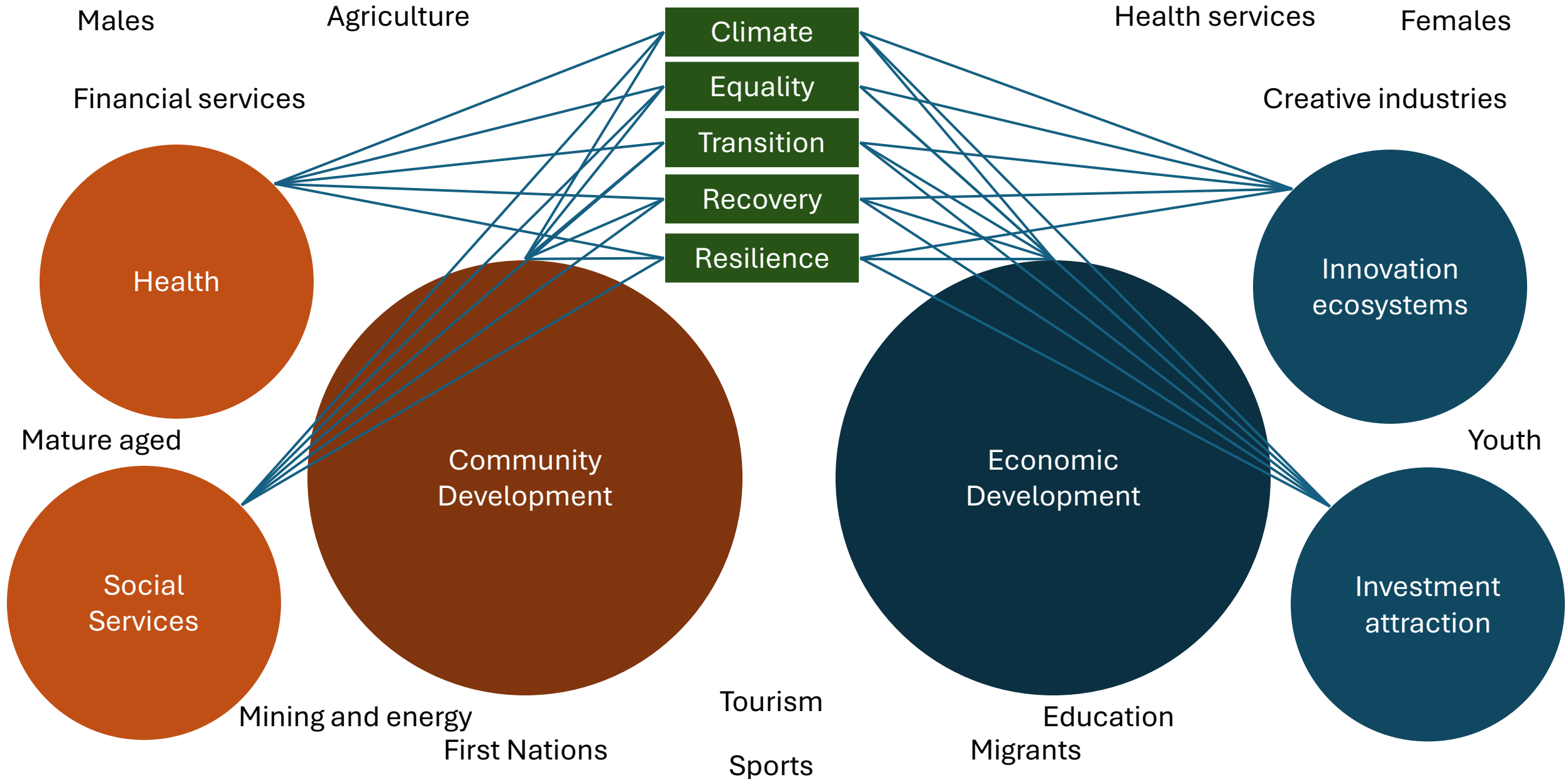
Community  
Development

Economic  
Development

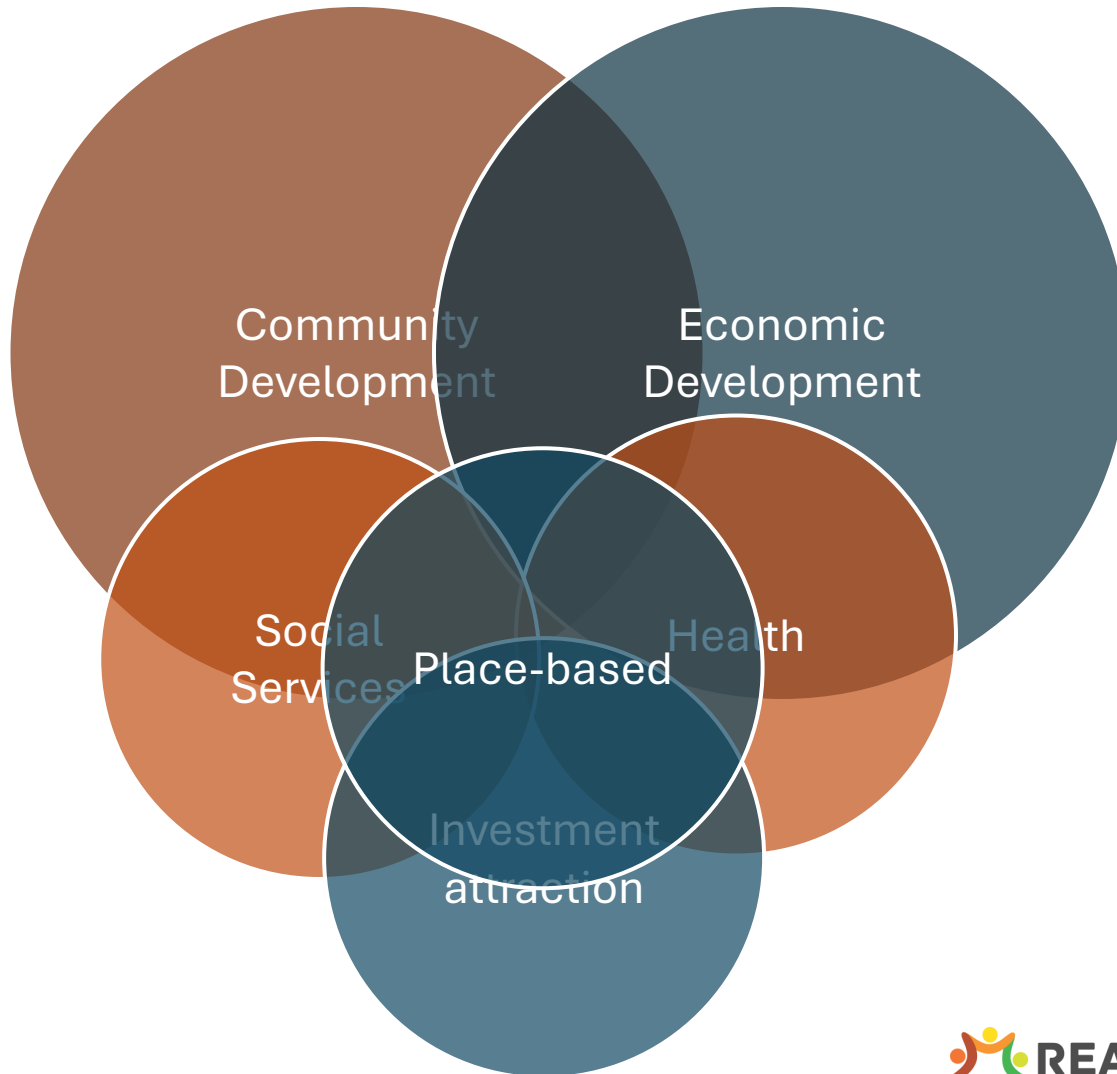
Innovation  
ecosystems

Investment  
attraction

# How do we define success? And for who?



# How do we define success? And for who?



Policies that most enable entrepreneur ecosystems may not be recognised as such, for example providing healthcare benefits outside of traditional employment, STEM education for women and minorities, and immigration reforms to better facilitate minority employment.

(Z. Acs et al. 2016)

Innovation activity, unchecked by social-protection systems, is inevitably linked to inequality in contemporary capitalist societies (Fragkandreas, 2022; Biurrun, 2022; Prettner & Strulik, 2020)

# 7 principles for enhancing innovation ecosystem services

Sourced from Biggs et al (2012) Toward  
Principles for Enhancing the Resilience of  
Ecosystem Services

Maintain diversity  
and redundancy



Manage  
Connectivity



Encourage learning  
and experimentation



Broaden  
participation



Promote polycentric  
governance systems



Foster understanding of  
complex adaptive systems



Manage slow  
variables and  
feedback



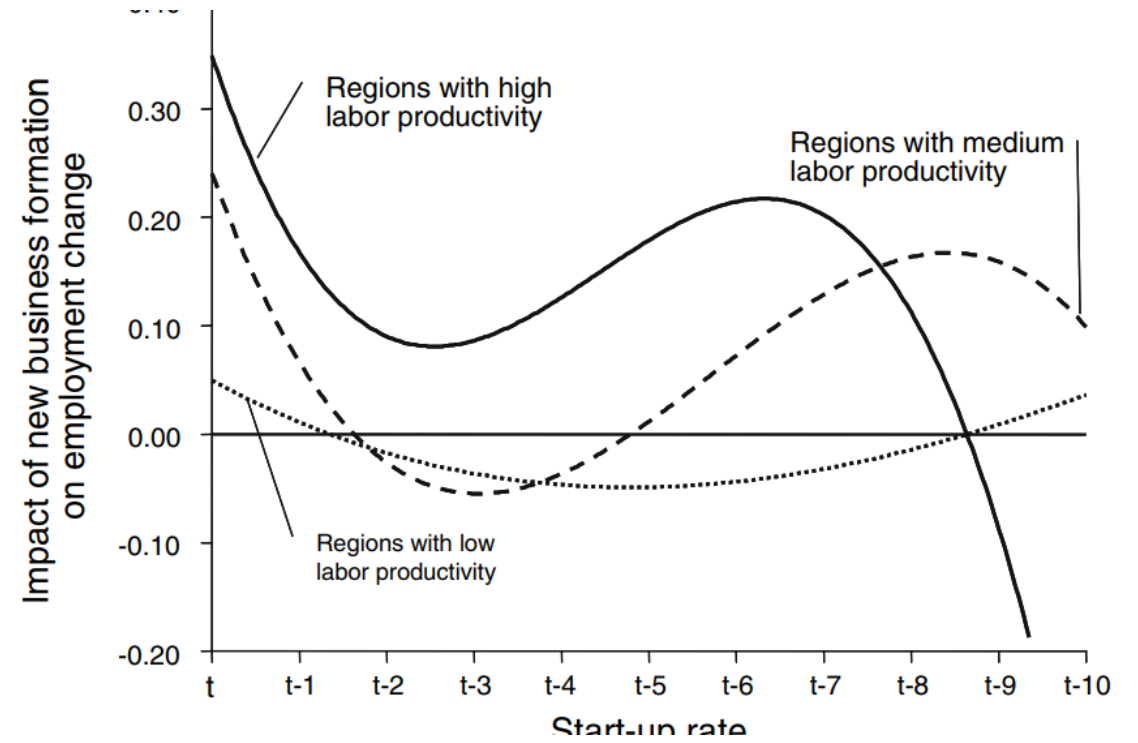
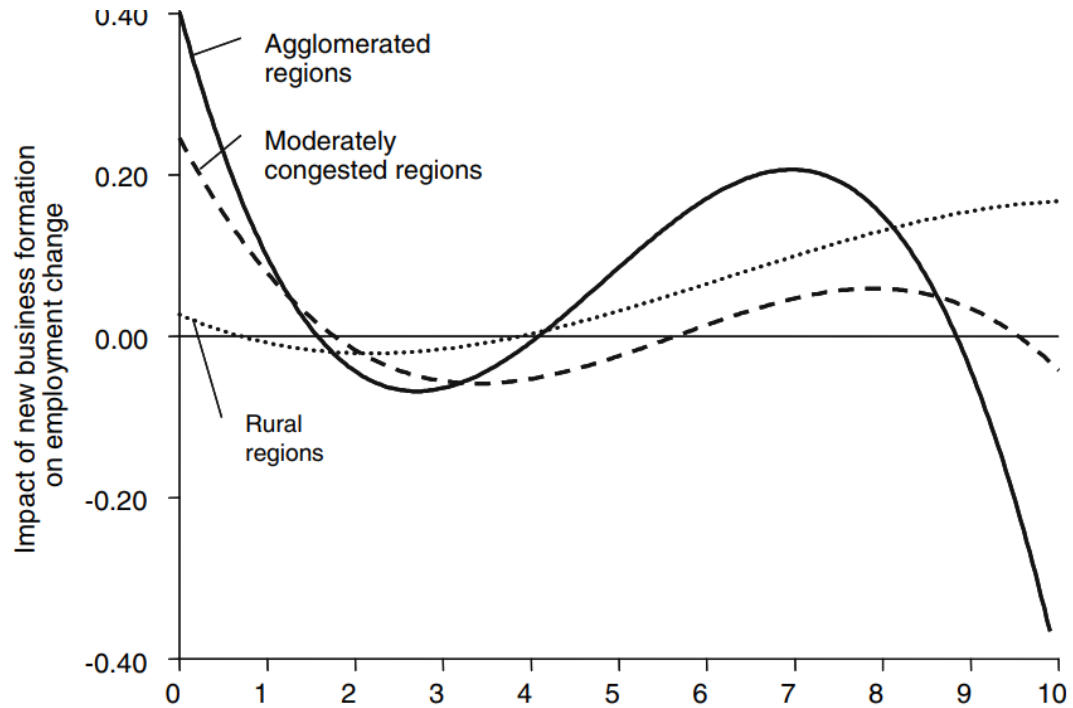


Rainforest

1. Break rules and dream
2. Open doors and listen
3. Trust and be trusted
4. Seek fairness, not advantage
5. Experiment and iterate together
6. Err, fail, and persist
7. Pay it forward

# Rules of the Rainforest

# It takes time



# Collective Impact and Backbone organisations

## Collective Impact

- Common agenda
- Shared measurement
- Mutually reinforcing activities
- Continuous communication
- Backbone support

Time, evolution, maturity



## Backbone Activities

1. Guide vision and strategy
2. Support aligned activities
3. Establish shared measurement practices
4. Build public will
5. Advance policy
6. Mobilize funding

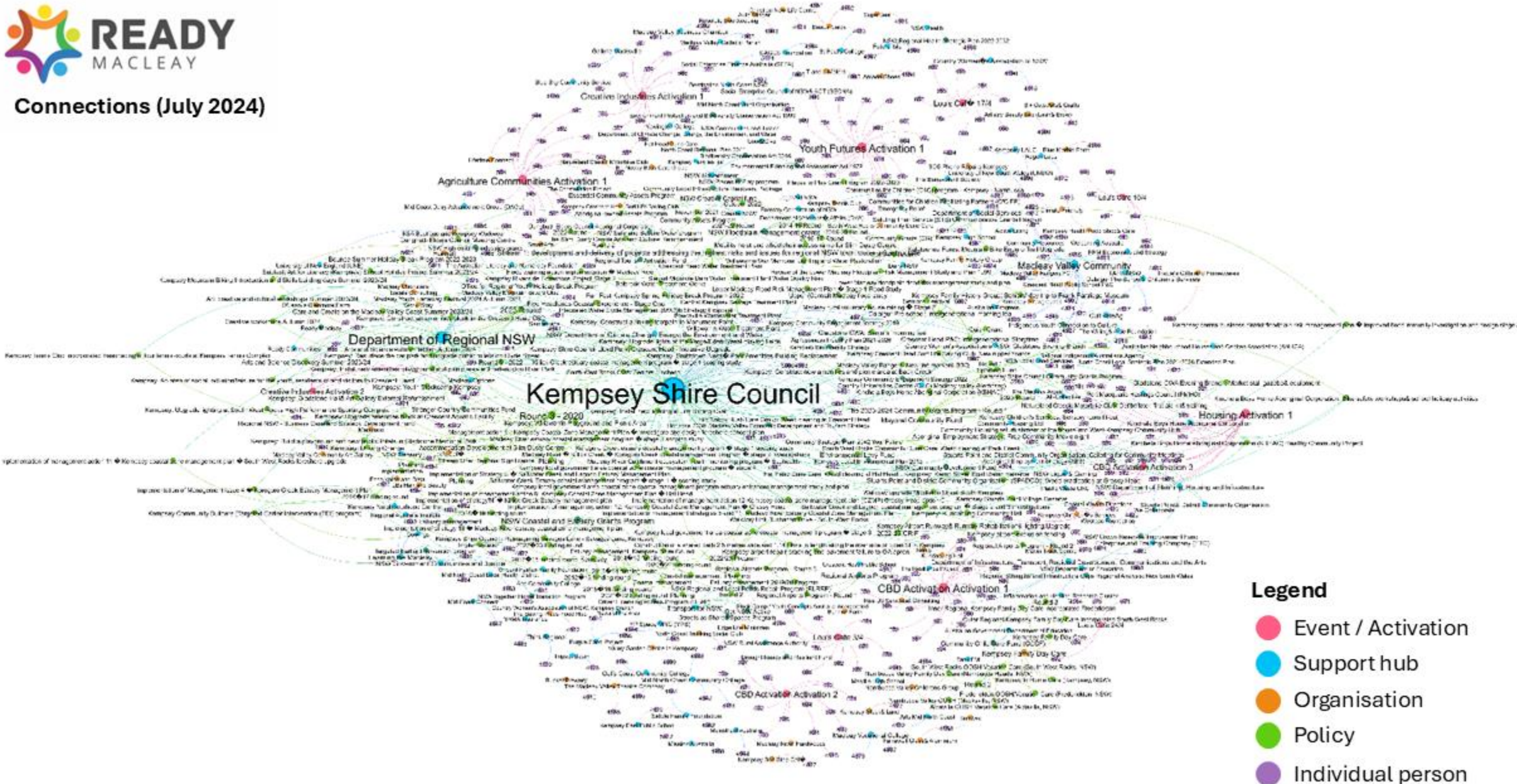
## Watch out for...

- Question of legitimacy
- Competitive free riders
- Investment justification
- Not engage all community / top down approach
- Policy change mechanisms
- Social justice mechanisms
- Local funding capability
- Emphasis on leadership style

## Leadership style

- Visionary
- Results-oriented
- Relationship builder
- Focused, but adaptive
- Charismatic and influential communicator
- Politically-savvy
- Humble

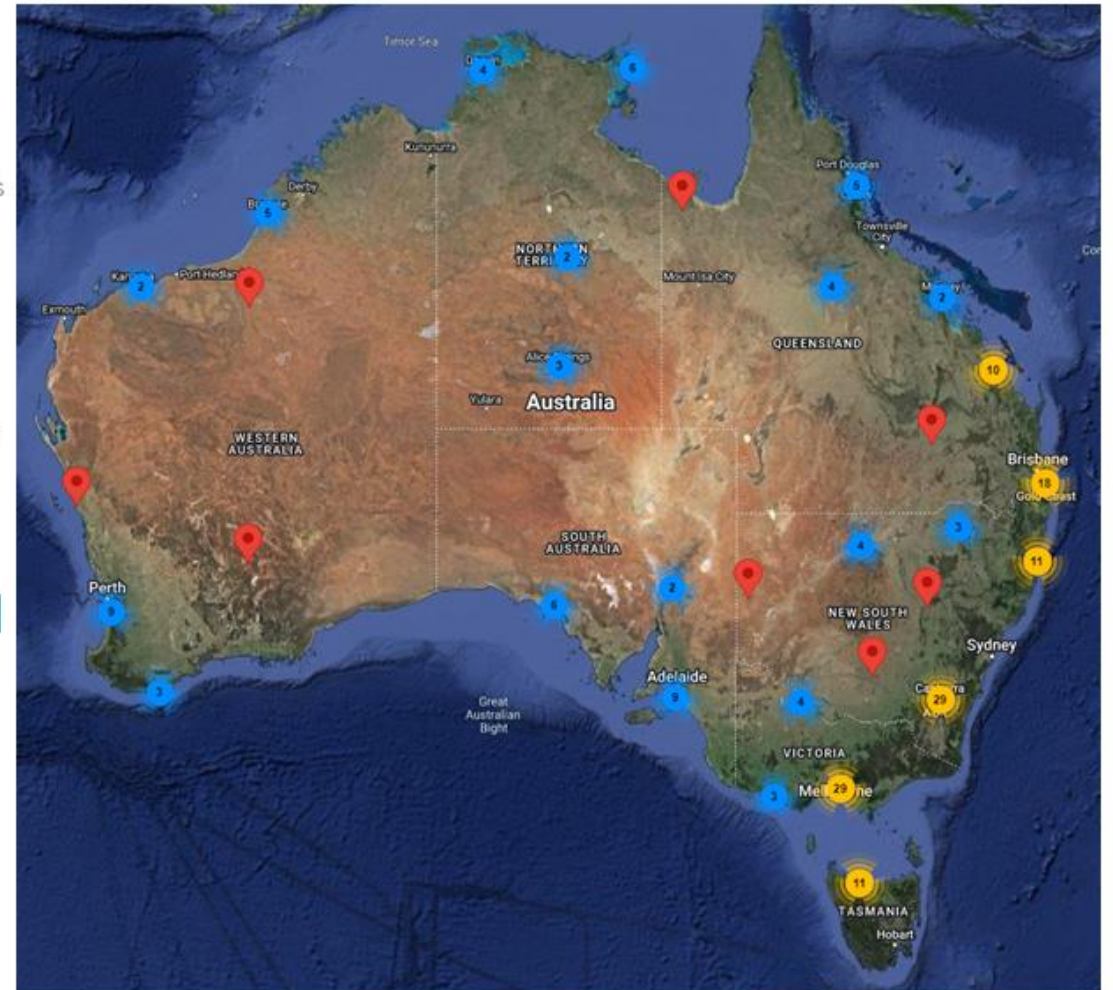




- Legend**
- Event / Activation
  - Support hub
  - Organisation
  - Policy
  - Individual person

# Place-based initiatives

 Logan Together	 Hands Up Mallee	 Impact Brimbank	 Investing in Rural Community Futures (IRCF) Program	
 Ready Communities	 Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project	 Just Reinvest NSW	 Mid Coast 4 Kids	 Queensland Connects
 By Five Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) Early Years Initiative	 Children's Ground	 Go Goldfields	 Gladstone Region Together	 Far West Community Partnerships
 It takes a Town	 Maranguka Community Hub	 Every Child Central Queensland	 Communities for Children Facilitating Partners (CfC FP)	 Gove Futures
 Burnie Works	 Cairns South Together	 Education Benalla Program (EBP)	 Beyond the Bell	 Barkly Regional Deal
 Australian Government Department of Education Connected Beginnings	 Early Years Partnership (EYP)	 Stronger Places, Stronger People	 Becoming U	



# FRRR Investing in Rural Community Futures (IRCF) Program

## People

Developing leadership capabilities, a renewed sense of community spirit and fostering skill development to create strong organisations that bring together various leaders, groups and residents.

### Activities:

- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Encouraging inclusivity
- Time management
- Leadership development
- Digital inclusion
- Mentoring

## Systems and Structures

Supporting community leaders to input new insights and energy to effort by providing lessons, systems and structures that demonstrate best practice.

### Activities:

- Legal structures, compliance and governance
- Financial management
- Communications and measurement
- Board skills development and financial literacy
- IT and security
- HR and performance management

## Sector efficiencies

Fostering relationships and practices that support efficient and effective collaboration with other not-for-profits to enhance community impact.

### Activities:

- Partnership development and management
- Collective impact training
- Peer to peer mentoring
- Lead agency support
- Networking and Sharing Platforms
- Forming the NFP working group

## Investing in strategy

Providing tools and measures that support and enable the sustainability of organisations well into the future.

### Activities:

- User-centred design
- Grassroots innovation and creativity
- Developing and embedding a framework for change
- Purpose and vision development
- Strategic planning and monitoring
- Revenue strategy



# Stronger Places, Stronger People

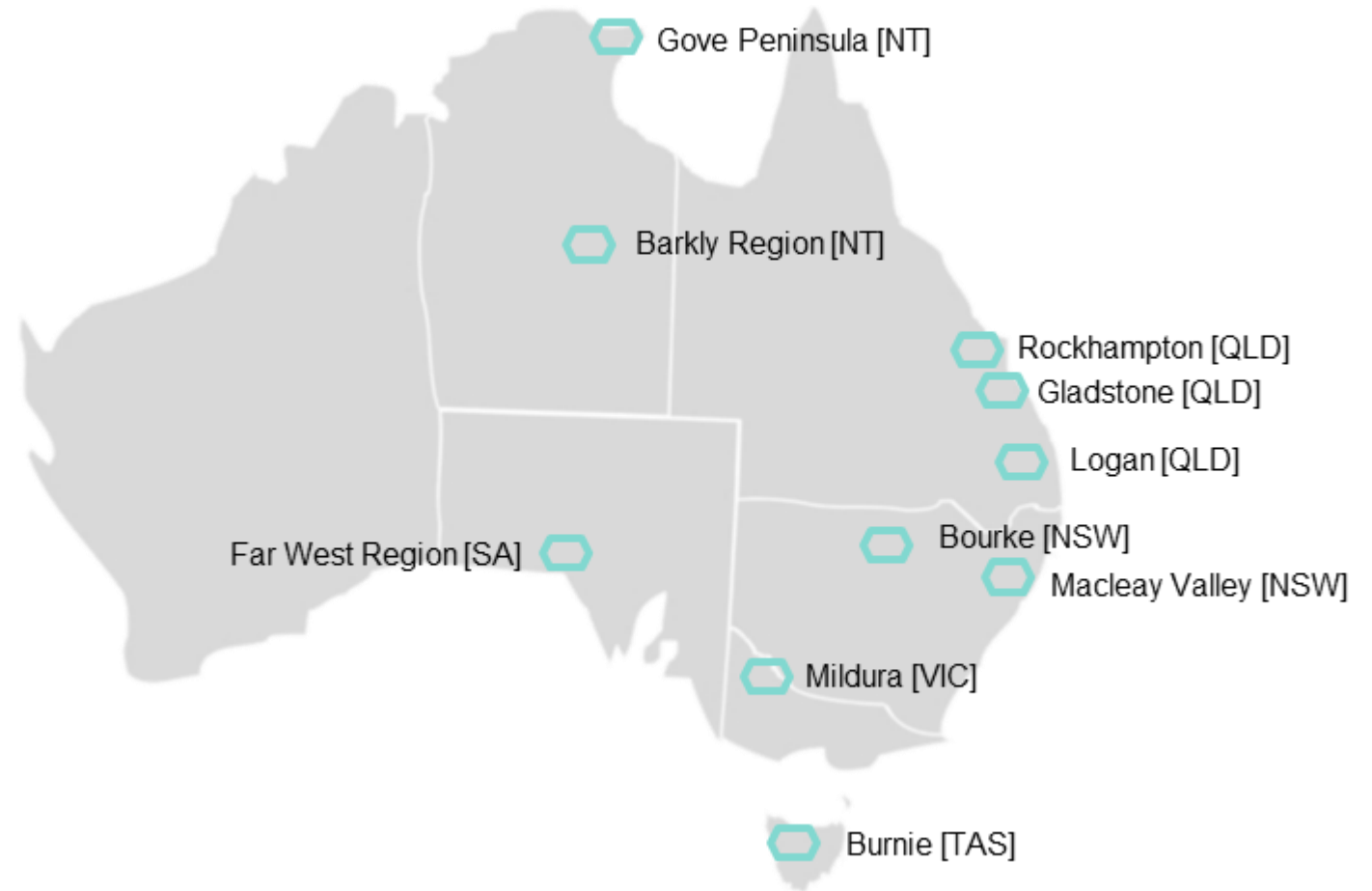
## Stronger Places, Stronger People

The **data** tells us which communities we need to prioritise

The **evidence** tells us where to invest to ensure **children and their families have strong futures**

The **voices of the local leaders and families** tells us how to work effectively in the **local context**

The **learnings and evaluations** of our progress tell us what features of the model make the most difference so we can drive **system changes** at scale to maximise what works





2 Months

8 Months

3 Day Conference



**READY**  
COMMUNITIES

- Focus Area One**
- Focus Area Two**
- Focus Area Three**
- Focus Area Four**
- Focus Area Five**

**DAY 1** - Connecting, defining, identifying, and theory

**DAY 2** - Experiential learning against themes

**DAY 3** - Embedding learning through action learning groups

**Initial Engagement**

- Identify initial contacts
- Co-develop themes to test

**Mapping and research**

- Map roles, accountabilities, funding, and policies

**Activation 1**

Confirm theme scope, develop ideas, identify stakeholders

**Activation 2**

Gather additional ideas, learn, initiate, and build

**Activation 3**

Learn, build, prepare, and trial

*Gather, test, trial*  
Gather new ideas, co-create and test project opportunities

*Gather, test, trial, implement*  
Gather new ideas, co-create and test project opportunities, continue to implement and build

**SIITR 3 Day Conference**



**Social Impact**  
In The Regions



**12-month activations developed through the Social Impact in the Regions Conference**

Capability and Capacity Development | Mentoring and Alumni | Investment Opportunities | Impact Measurement



**READY**  
COMMUNITIES



**Social Impact**  
In The Regions

# Thank you

- **What is your journey?**
- Dr Chad Renando
- Co-Founder, Ready Communities
- A/Director, Centre for Rural Economies, UniSQ
- CEO, Startup Status
- +61 479 117 101

