



# South Australia Community Impact Summary

July 2022



WINNER 2021



FINALIST 2022





# South Australia Community Impact Summary

## Championed by:



## Supported by:



**Government of South Australia**

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

**Wellbeing SA**  
Supporting your  
state of wellbeing



**SPORTAUS**

## Evaluated by:



**LA TROBE**  
UNIVERSITY

CENTRE FOR  
SPORT AND  
SOCIAL IMPACT

## Inspired by:



## Locally led by:

Multicultural Communities Council of SA  
Paradise Kindergarten  
Campbelltown Preschool  
Campbelltown Community Children's Centre  
Magill Kindergarten  
Housing Choices South Australia  
Pennington Children's Centre  
Anglicare  
Hackham West Children's Centre  
Anglicare - Communities for Children  
Hackham West Community Centre  
The Smith Family  
Family by Family (Uniting Communities)  
Hackham West Primary School staff  
Hackham West Lions Club  
C.A.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre  
Enfield Primary School  
The Pear Café  
Playgroups & others

## In partnership with:



From July 2020 to June 2022, the South Australian Government invested to strengthen the health and wellbeing of local communities by supporting Play Streets, thus enabling Play Australia, Local Governments, Community Partners and communities to collaborate and reclaim quiet residential streets for neighbours of all ages to connect and play.

Resulting in:

36  
Play Streets



27  
Locations



Supported by  
6  
LOCAL GOVS



Supported by  
19  
Local Community Partners



Involving  
2,301  
neighbours



Made possible by  
59  
Play Streets Hosts



*"We now connect with more children in the area and stop and talk and say hello. There are a family we see regularly riding their skateboards up and down and we always say hello and our kids get their boards out to join in. We were already friendly with lots of our neighbours but this allowed us to meet even more. There was a lady who had recently moved into the street and didn't know anyone and she said how fantastic it was to meet people in the street."*

**Play Street Host**

# Top three community impacts

1

More connected communities

2

More children's outdoor play

3

Better systems for Play Streets



## KEY LEARNING:

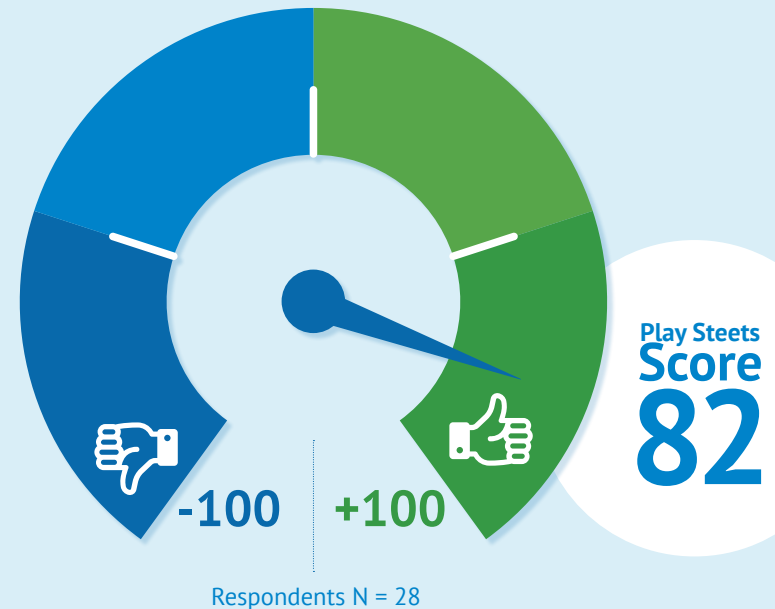
To grow community engagement and impact, **collaboration at multiple levels is critical** to support Local Government to embrace progressive Play Streets policy/practice and drive equitable approaches that connect with communities in need.

See examples of how collaboration supported Local Government action on Play Streets on page 08.

## Play Street Net Promoter Score

This measure shows that South Australian communities would recommend Play Streets to their friends and family.

As a general guide any score over 70 is deemed excellent, therefore this result places Play Streets in the top range of experiences.



# Top three community impacts

1

## More connected communities

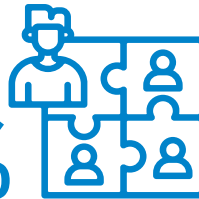
During the Hectorville Play Street trial (for multicultural communities) attendees who completed a Play Australia Community Survey reported that as a result of attending their Play Street:



90%

found an improvement in their confidence to talk to people in their street/community

90%



agreed or strongly agreed that they felt a strong sense of connection with people at the gathering

## What South Australian communities are saying about Play Streets:

*"I know the names of my neighbours now, and the interaction and connection continues after the street play."*

*"Surprising how easily people connected once put together, it was great to meet so many new faces from around the block."*

*"Most people have been in the area 4 – 5 years, now neighbours wave to each other more."*

*"We had a ball and got to meet new neighbours and build up friendships even further with existing ones."*

*"People meeting their neighbours for the first time and children continuing play after the event finished, with some finding newfound friendships."*



# Top three community impacts

2

## More children's outdoor play

During the Hectorville Play Street trial, parents and caregivers completed a Play Australia Community Survey and rated what's changed for their child after attending their Play Street.

Ratings were determined on a scale of 0-10 (0 being the least change and 10 being the greatest change).

9.2

Motivation to play outdoors



9.1

Enjoyment in playing outdoors



8.1

Amount of time spent playing outdoors



8.1

Confidence to play outdoors



## What South Australian parents and caregivers are saying about Play Streets:

*"Having the traffic managed was beneficial because the kids can play on the street ....and you can enjoy yourself without looking over your shoulder to see if a car is coming."*

*"Kids don't need much – just knowing they were free to ride up and down the street and meet new kids in their neighbourhood was enough for them. It was wonderful to see!"*

*"Kids who normally don't get to see each other will now gather a couple times a week to draw on the driveways (under parent supervision). With everyone getting to know each other in that environment helps as we will all look out for each other now."*

*"The children were loving the hair salon being run by one of the girls who lives on the street."*

# Top three community impacts

## 3

### Better systems for Play Streets

#### CASE STUDY 1: Improving State legislation for Play Streets

Play Australia facilitated a South Australia Local Government Play Street Network to identify and explore key barriers/enablers to support community Play Streets.

As a result, the Network determined that the state-wide legislation forcing Local Governments to advertise upcoming temporary street closures in local newspapers was an outdated and expensive requirement.

Following this, Play Australia developed an advocacy strategy and, with the support of Office for Recreation, Sport & Racing's cross-departmental Governance Group, was successful in having this legislation updated by Department for Infrastructure & Transport in February 2022.

It is anticipated the amended policy and procedural advice\* will enable Local Government in South Australia to choose to advertise upcoming Play Streets on their website or social media platforms instead of paying for print media.

\*As at July 2022, SA Local Governments are awaiting advice to be disseminated by Department for Infrastructure & Transport to adopt the updated legislation.



#### KEY IMPACT:

By eliminating print media advertising costs (\$400-\$700 per Play Street) Local Government budgets for Play Streets in South Australia will stretch further to create greater community impact.

## Spotlight on the South Australia Local Government Play Street Network

In addition to supporting system advocacy, there was a huge amount of value in bringing this group of committed Local Government Professionals together to learn from one another's experiences, swap resources and share inspiration.

Play Australia's SA Project Manager facilitated network meetings quarterly and supported further engagement with email updates each month.

On reflection, the informal and supportive nature of this network, worked well to create a safe space for all to contribute, appreciating that Local Governments involved were at all different stages when it came to adopting progressive Play Streets policy and processes to support community participation.



*"This forum is what is working well and increasing our capacity; we have all had individual journeys and now we have strength behind us and ability to come together and influence change across other councils to see how others are doing it."*

SA LGA network representative

The figure below provides examples of how collaboration supported Local Government action on Play Streets:



KEY LEARNING:

To grow community engagement and impact, **collaboration at multiple levels is critical** to support Local Government to embrace progressive Play Streets policy/practice and drive equitable approaches that connect with communities in need.



Collaborations:

- Effective LGA Community Development Teams had strong internal support for policy and process improvement (e.g. from CEO and Road Management Team).
- Play Australia, La Trobe University & the SA LGA network collaborated to build the available evidence base for Play Streets to support future internal advocacy efforts within LGAs.

Collaborations:

- Play Australia and the SA LGA Play Streets Network worked together to identify system barriers and advocate for legislation change.
- ORSR's Cross-Government Governance Group were important to help engage DIT to update advertising requirements and reduce cost burden on LGA budgets.

Collaborations:

- 6 x LGA partners, 19 x Community Partners and 59 x Play Street Hosts supported community engagement efforts and to drive equitable approaches to Play Streets.
- In combination with LGA internal workforce allocation, ORSR provided key funding to boost LGA budgets for Play Streets and provided a critical shared resource in Play Australia's SA Project Manager.

Collaborations:

- Play Australia enabled an array of knowledge sharing opportunities for LGAs via Network participation, online PD, quarterly meetings, provision of planning advice and access to research c/o La Trobe University.
- Play Street Hosts and local communities provided key guidance to build their locally-led Play Streets model.



# Driving Equitable Approaches to Play Streets

For LGAs to properly engage their most disadvantaged communities in Play Streets, they may need to commit 5-10 days to deliver the community engagement work required, which can quickly stretch internal resourcing too far.

As a result, Australian communities who experience higher levels of disadvantage are at-risk of missing out on Play Streets.

Our big learning through our SA Play Streets is that these communities can still be engaged and supported to participate when LGAs collaborate with like-minded community partners.

This enables LGAs to still cut the related red tape (e.g. public liability, traffic management and control) whilst accepting partial or full support from Community Partners to deliver the essential community engagement work.

*The gathering connected with the most vulnerable families and those who don't normally engage in activities. Great to see the residents come out onto the street."*

**Play Street Host from a community with a low socio-economic status**

# Looking forward

Play Australia acknowledges South Australia as the most progressed Australian State when it comes to supporting Local Government and community action on Play Streets.

As a result, many positive community impacts have been achieved, however there is still much to be done:

- To convince Local Government Leaders to challenge outdated internal policies that value risk-aversion over people-driven policy;
- To access adequate workforce and budget resources, particularly for considered community development approaches;
- To adopt best practice Play Streets policy and processes that make it easier for communities to get involved;
- To embed a stronger equity lens to ensure Play Streets support our communities who experience higher levels of disadvantage; and
- To advocate for broader system changes required so we can open more streets for people to connect and play.

*"We need to create the safe environment for our decision-makers to approve this, and the more examples the safer that will become."*

**South Australian Local Government Representative**

## Acknowledgements

Play Australia would like to thank a number of people and organisations who contributed to this important work so far- including our:

- South Australian Communities who played out on their streets;
- Volunteer Play Street Hosts and Community Partners involved;
- Local Governments (particularly the representatives from our SA Local Government Play Streets Network);
- Government supporters in Office for Recreation, Sport & Racing, Wellbeing SA and Sport Australia;
- Play Australia Project Managers in Gavin Fairbrother and Leeza Peters, and;
- Dr. Erica Randle, our 1000 Play Streets Research Lead from Centre for Sport and Social Impact at La Trobe University.

*Cover image: Office for Recreation, Sport & Racing*



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