

A close-up photograph of a young child with curly brown hair, smiling and holding a white daisy flower with a yellow center in front of their face. The child is wearing a white t-shirt and a colorful beaded necklace. The background is softly blurred.

# The Investment Dialogue

for Australia's  
Children

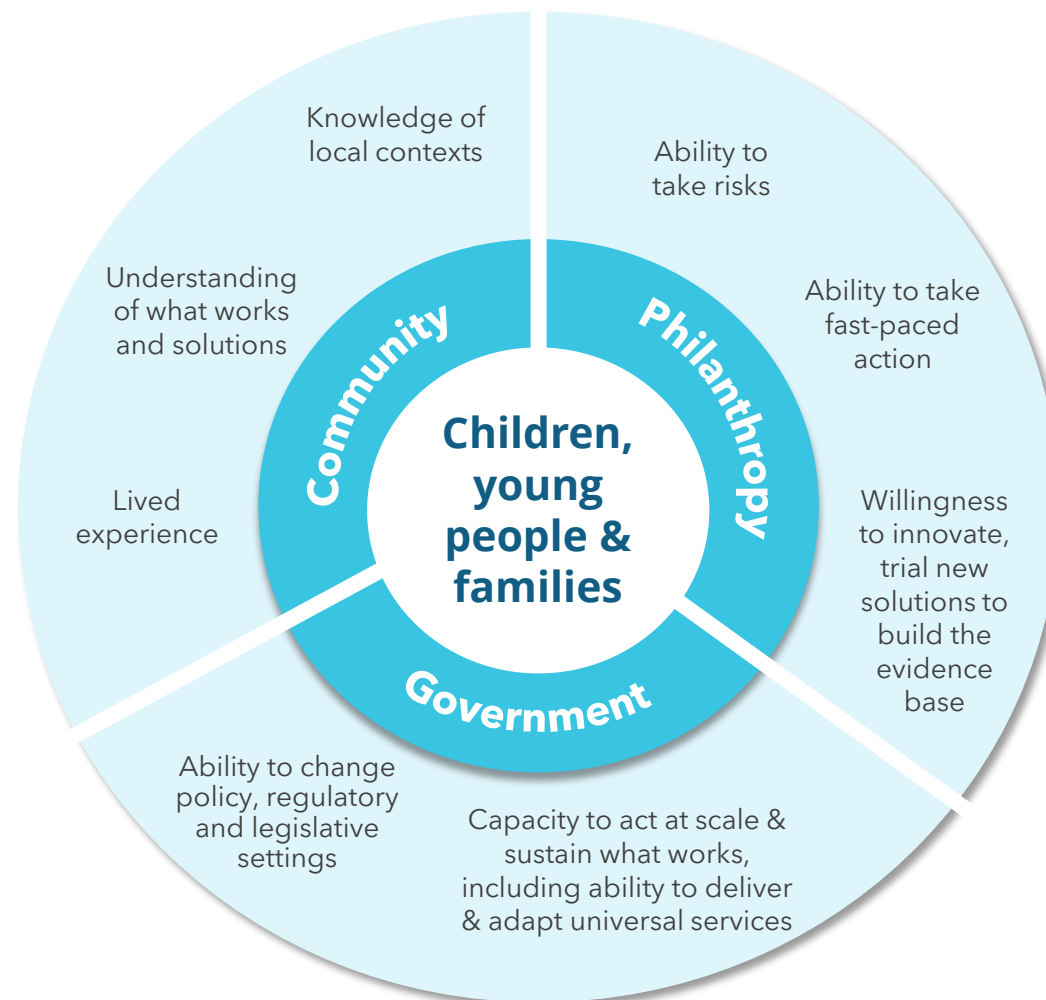
**Strategic Framework  
November 2024**

# Collaboration through the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children seeks to draw on the unique strengths of community, government and philanthropy

We believe long-term change requires us to collaborate, drawing on each other's strengths and unique roles, to maximise our collective ability to create the conditions for long-term change.

We aim to convene parties in a way that creates open dialogue and enables each to bring their respective strengths to the table.

This diagram summarises some of the unique roles and strengths of each party, informed by the Working Together Agreement.



# The Strategic Framework will guide dialogue and collaboration between community, government and philanthropic partners

Improve the wellbeing of children, young people and their families, by working with communities to reduce intergenerational disadvantage

Our 10-year commitments

Collaboration and working differently



Long-term approach



Community- and First Nations led



Meaningful outcomes



Continual improvement



Strategic portfolios

## Place

**Partner with communities to work differently and create the conditions for change in place...**

- Support community and First Nations-led place-based initiatives across the readiness scale from seeding to amplifying change
- Put data into the hands of communities to promote local planning and solutions, and support First Nations data sovereignty
- Develop the enablers for place, including supporting local leadership, shared decision making and coordinated investment
- Foster the ecosystem and networks needed to drive cohesive, enduring and impactful approaches to working in place

## Early Years

**...while working to ensure children experiencing disadvantage thrive in their early years...**

- Empower parents and caregivers to better access the resources and education to support children
- Support early childhood initiatives which centre First Nations ways of knowing, being and doing and pride in culture
- Develop inclusive child and family centered early years systems with interconnected ECD and holistic ECEC models
- Catalyse development of a high-quality workforce in child facing services
- Shift public mindsets to recognise the importance of the early years

## Young People

**... and sustaining gains, minimising harm and drawing on the strengths of young people to achieve positive intergenerational change**

- Support children in their middle years to thrive, including supporting First Nations approaches and innovation in the education system
- Support young people to navigate life transitions including to secondary school and into adulthood
- Experiment with new ways of holding systems accountable and creating fit for purpose systems for young people experiencing harm, including through elevating the voices of young people
- Experiment with rebalancing investment into prevention to decrease demand on tertiary services

Objectives

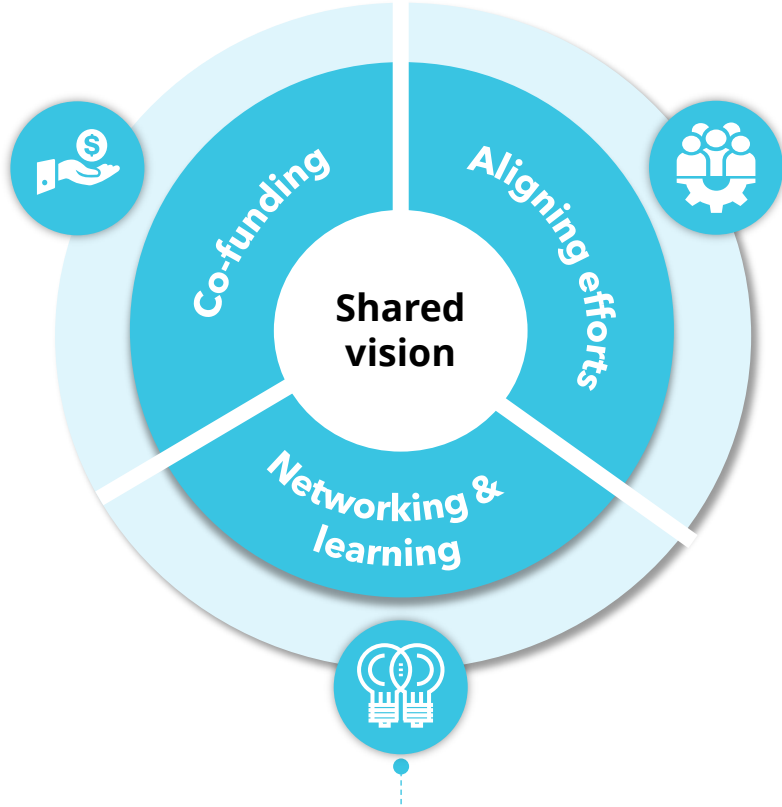
# Collaboration in each strategic portfolio will take different forms

## **MAKING FINANCIAL CO-CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOINT INITIATIVES**

To increase our joint impact, our collaboration includes making financial co-contributions to joint or complementary initiatives as part of a package of work.

This partnership approach allows for joint decision-making on investment and creates a greater pool of resources. We also aim to reduce the burden on communities and organisations by streamlining reporting processes and avoiding the complications of multiple funders supporting separate initiatives.

This way of working enables funders to share risk while bringing diverse perspectives to governance, ultimately strengthening our collective efforts to support children and young people across Australia.



## **MAKING DECISIONS BASED ON COORDINATION OF WHAT OTHER PARTNERS ARE DOING**

By actively sharing information and working together, we can make more informed and coordinated decisions and forge a deeper understanding of related initiatives across various sectors. This could occur through knowledge sharing, co-designing initiatives and portfolios of work with government, philanthropy and community and facilitating purposeful discussions through working groups.

This dynamic exchange of knowledge and form of collaboration reduces fragmentation and enhances coordination, allowing for decisions to be made either in partnership or individually, yet always with clear communication and visibility toward a shared goal of improving outcomes for children and young people.

## **MAKING CONNECTIONS & EXCHANGING IDEAS ACROSS AND WITHIN SECTORS**

We are inspired by community, government and philanthropy coming together to exchange ideas, information, and learnings, enabling collective efforts to work towards a shared goal.

This approach to collaboration fosters connections among colleagues across sectors, helping them to better understand existing work and build a common terminology. The benefits are clear: improved sharing of insights enhances coordination within the system and assists in identifying solutions and holistic responses to complex, crosscutting issues.