

PLACE Australia Youth Impact Network

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Youth Impact Network?

A national network where young people involved in or connected to place-based work can connect, learn from each other and influence change. Involvement can include a wide spread of place-based practice across both informal and formal settings.

What does place-based mean?

Place-based work and approaches recognise that while problems might be caused by big structural forces, they're experienced locally and need responses that fit the specific place, culture and community.

Why is this network being set up?

Young people are already doing important work in their communities, but often:

- without enough support
- without clear influence on decisions that affect them
- while navigating multiple systems at once.

This network provides a space for connection, learning and influence.

What is the purpose of the network?

The network focuses on:

- Building relationships
- Supporting peer learning
- Sharing insights from lived experience and practice experience
- Influencing decisions and systems that impact young people.

How is an impact network different to other networks like learning networks or communities of practice?

An Impact Network is designed to bring diverse people together to work towards a shared purpose and create change in real-world systems. This means it combines relationships, learning and action. It uses what members know and experience to: influence decisions, test new ideas together, and influence how systems operate over time.

What will participation involve?

You can expect:

- Regular online convenings
- Opportunities to connect and share experiences
- Optional ways to take on a more active role

Participation is flexible. You can step in and out depending on your capacity.

Do I have to represent my community, organisation or all young people?

No. You are not expected to represent anyone other than your own experience and perspective.

Is this a paid role?

Participation is not a paid role for everyone. However, we will support young people to take part where they are not formally backed by an organisation. This is part of PLACE's commitment to equitable participation. If there are barriers to your participation, we encourage you to speak with us.

How is the network different from consultation?

This is not a one-off consultation. The network is ongoing, relational, and designed to support shared learning, action and influence over time.

How will my input or contribution be used?

Your contributions will remain within the network and your consent will always be requested before anything is shared beyond the network.



How will the network be structured?

The network will include:

- An open network for anyone who joins
- A smaller group who help shape the network such as setting agendas or convening themes
- Smaller working groups when needed
- PLACE staff who are there to support

What support does PLACE provide?

PLACE plays a supporting role, and is responsible for:

- Coordination and any facilitation or co-facilitation
- Ensuring access and inclusion
- Connections across other PLACE networks
- Resources
- Supporting the network to access pathways for influence and advocacy.

How do people join?

- Through invitation via existing PLACE networks
- By completing a short Expression of Interest (EOI)

The EOI helps to:

- Manage numbers
- Support a range of experiences and representation

Will the network change over time?

Yes. The network is designed to learn and evolve based on what members need and want to focus on.

Want to know more?

We'd love to speak with you if you're keen to learn more! Reach out to us at enable@placeaustralia.org