

## Social plans

Project: Development of Social Plans

Organisation: City of Melbourne, City of Wyndham, City of Greater Geelong, City of Kingston, City of Hume, Moyne Shire, Moorabool Shire

Project date: 2001 -ongoing

Semann & Slattery has been engaged on numerous occasions to assist local government authorities throughout Victoria to develop social plans to meet the needs of children, young people and their families. In undertaking these projects our research team has used a range of methodologies including: street surveys, online surveys, public forums, focus groups and workshops to collect data. Consultations are held with service providers, families, children and young people to ensure the voices of all community members are heard and considered. The results of these projects have led to the development and publication of policy documents and action plans. These plans assist local government authorities and their community partners, to deliver programs now and into the future to meet the current and emerging needs of their communities.

Methodologies used in consultations with children and young people adopt an arts based approach. This recognises the importance of using research tools that are appropriate and acceptable to the respondents, and that offer different ways for them to participate and express their ideas. For example, in developing the youth plan for City of Wyndham, Semann & Slattery engaged a local artist to work with young people to create individual art works that represented their views about important issues impacting on their lives. The artworks produced in these forums were included as data in determining key themes and priorities for the plan. They were subsequently displayed in a community art exhibition where individual artworks were auctioned and all funds raised donated to charity, at the request of the artists.

### Local government agencies committed to this project:

- City of Melbourne
- City of Wyndham
- City of Greater Geelong
- City of Kingston
- City of Hume
- Moyne Shire
- Moorabool Shire