The Geelong Project

A 'community of schools & services' [COSS] model

RESULTS AND PROSPECTS

1973-1980: reports of Young people becoming homeless

1980: Senate Inquiry into youth homelessness

1985: National Homelessness Program SAAP

1995: House of Reps "The Morris Report"

1994: Census of homeless school students

1989-1990: HEROC 'The Burdekin Report'

1997-2003: Reconnect Program

2007–2008: National Youth Commission (NYC) into Youth Homelessness

2010: The Geelong Project (TGP) begins

2018: Upstream Project Australia

2018: COSS Model scale-up beginning!

2018: NSW funding - $4.7m over 4 years

2018: TGP funded - $2.8m over 2 years

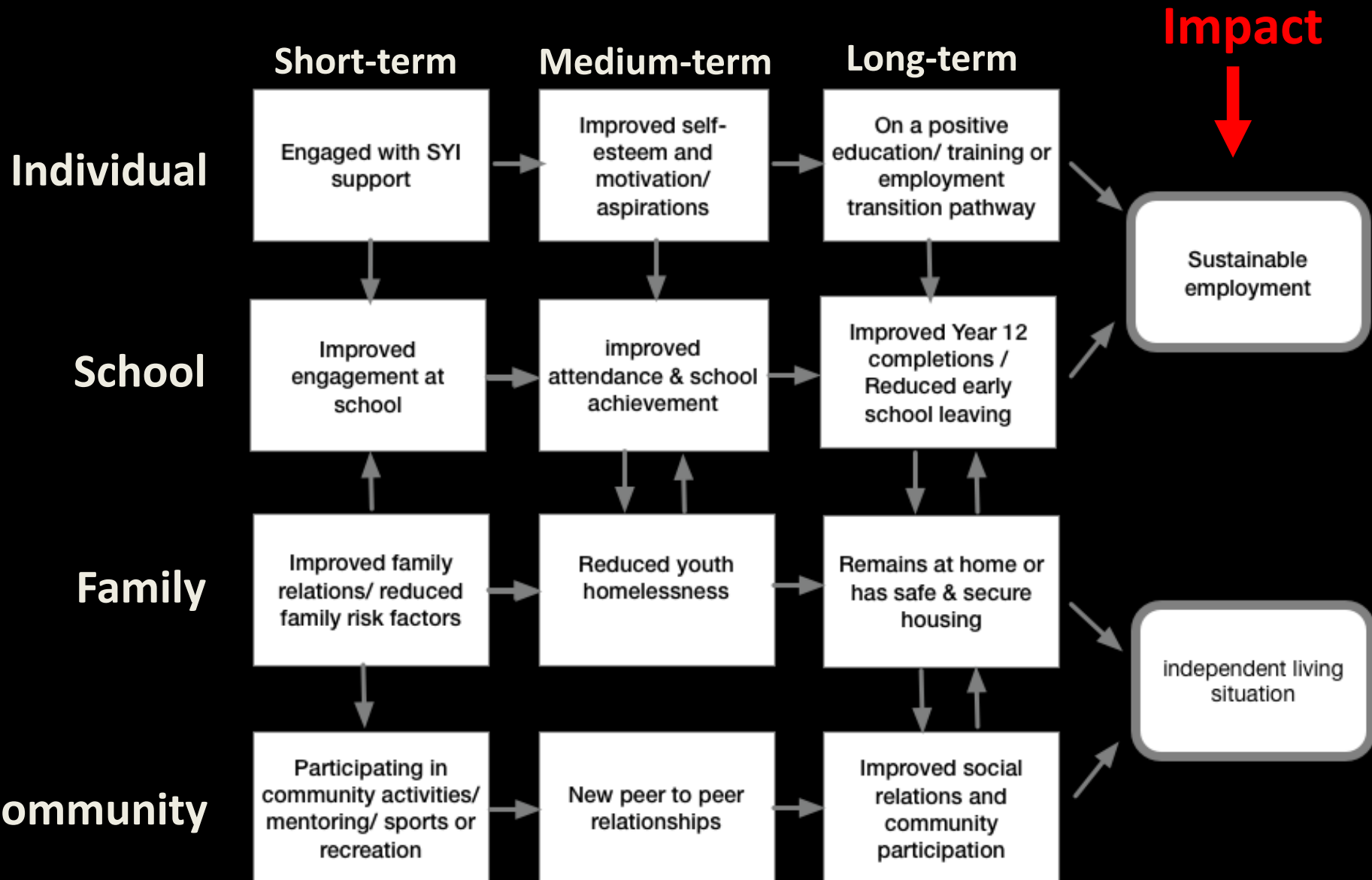# Why has early intervention been so difficult?

DISADVANTAGE?

Youth homelessness: 230 adolescents/year (2002-13)

Early school leaving: about 200 -250 youth/year in Geelong

Petty crime: Adolescents: 212 assaults; 129 property; 334 theft; 39 disorderly conduct (2016)

Illicit substance use: Going down, about 1000 have smoked marijuana; 84 tried ICE; 120 have tried ecstasy

- family dysfunction
- family conflict
- community poverty
- mental health issues

Program Logic Outcomes Matrix

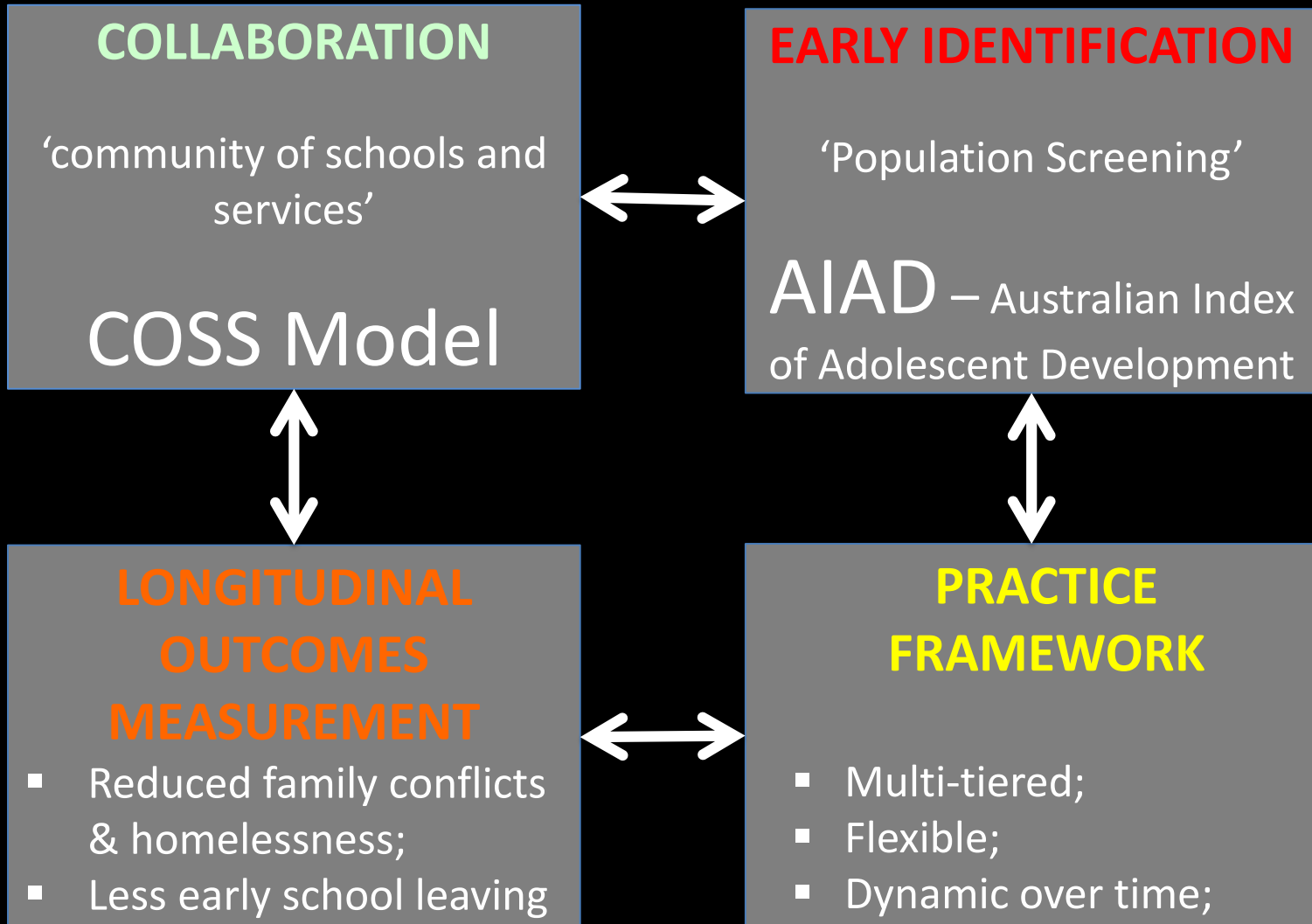|	**Short-term**	**Medium-term**	**Long-term**	**Impact**
Individual	Engaged with SYI support	Improved self-esteem and motivation/ aspirations	On a positive education/ training or employment transition pathway	Sustainable employment
School	Improved engagement at school	improved attendance & school achievement	Improved Year 12 completions / Reduced early school leaving	
Family	Improved family relations/ reduced family risk factors	Reduced youth homelessness	Remains at home or has safe & secure housing	independent living situation
Community	Participating in community activities/ mentoring/ sports or recreation	New peer to peer relationships	Improved social relations and community participation	

The 'community of schools and services' model of early intervention

[COSS MODEL]

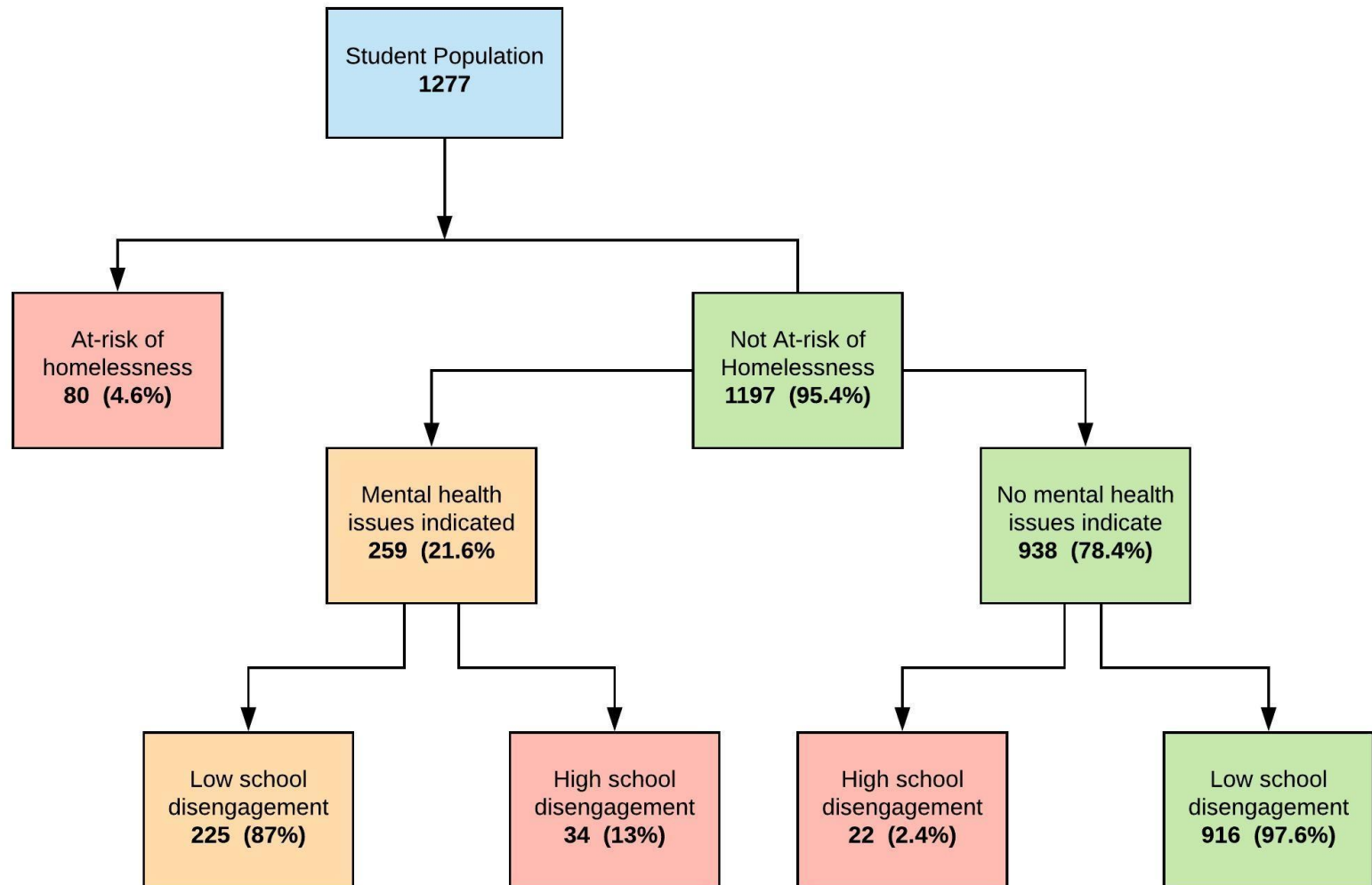## (aka The Geelong Project)
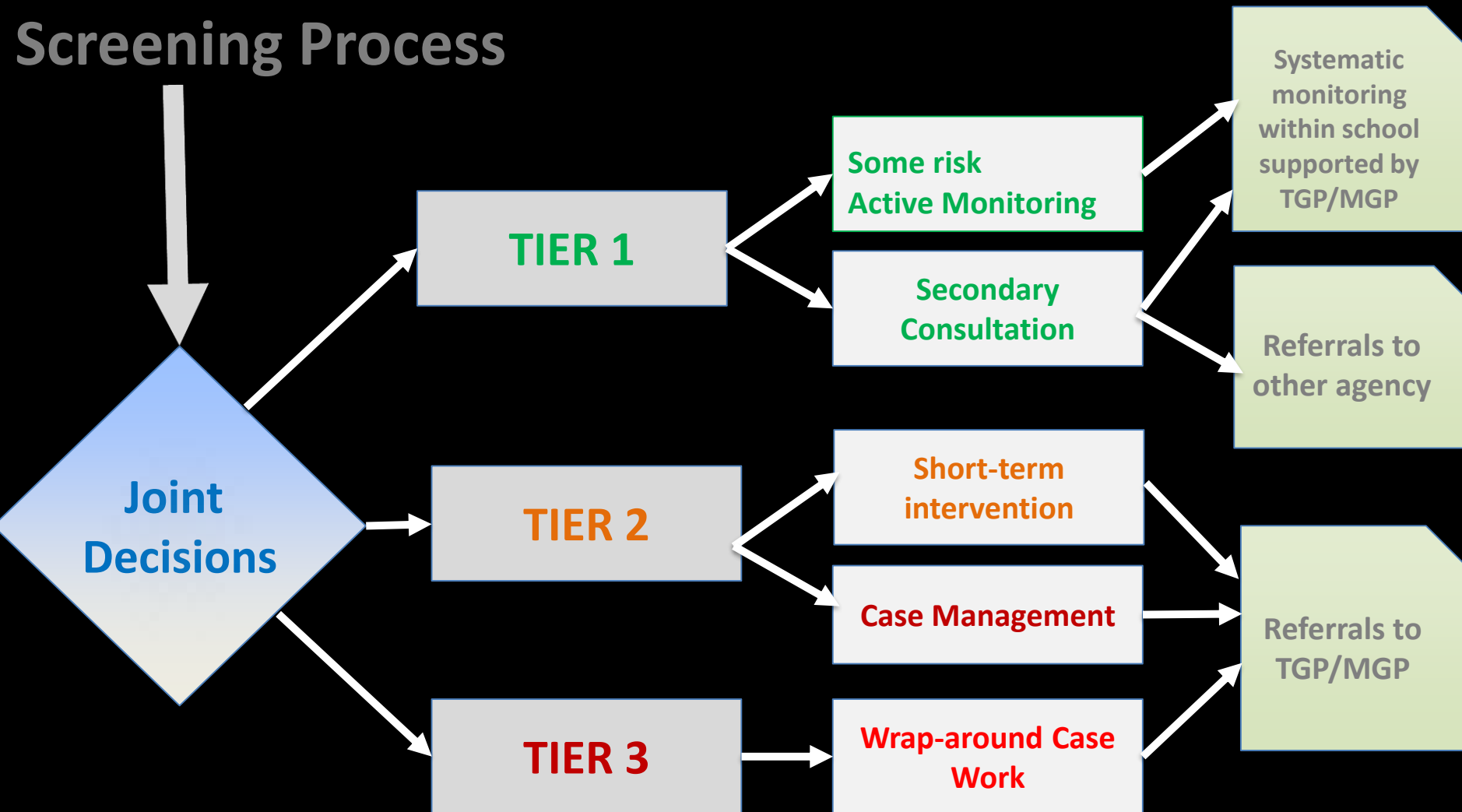
Foundations of TGP/ COSS Model

COLLABORATION

'community of schools and services'

COSS Model

EARLY IDENTIFICATION

'Population Screening'

AIAD – Australian Index of Adolescent Development

LONGITUDINAL OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT

- Reduced family conflicts & homelessness;
- Less early school leaving

PRACTICE FRAMEWORK

- Multi-tiered;
- Flexible;
- Dynamic over time;

COLLABORATION: The 'Geelong' Project

CORE PARTNERS GROUP (BCYF/LLEN/UPA)

TGP EXECUTIVE GOVERNANCE GROUP

TGP OPERATIONS GROUP
BCYF/Schools/headspace

Upstream Project (UPA)
(Data support, R&D)

Geelong Schools
(Educational outcomes)

LLEN
Educ/ Empl network

(BCYF)
(lead Agency)

Geelong Schools
In-school welfare staff

headspace
(youth mental health)
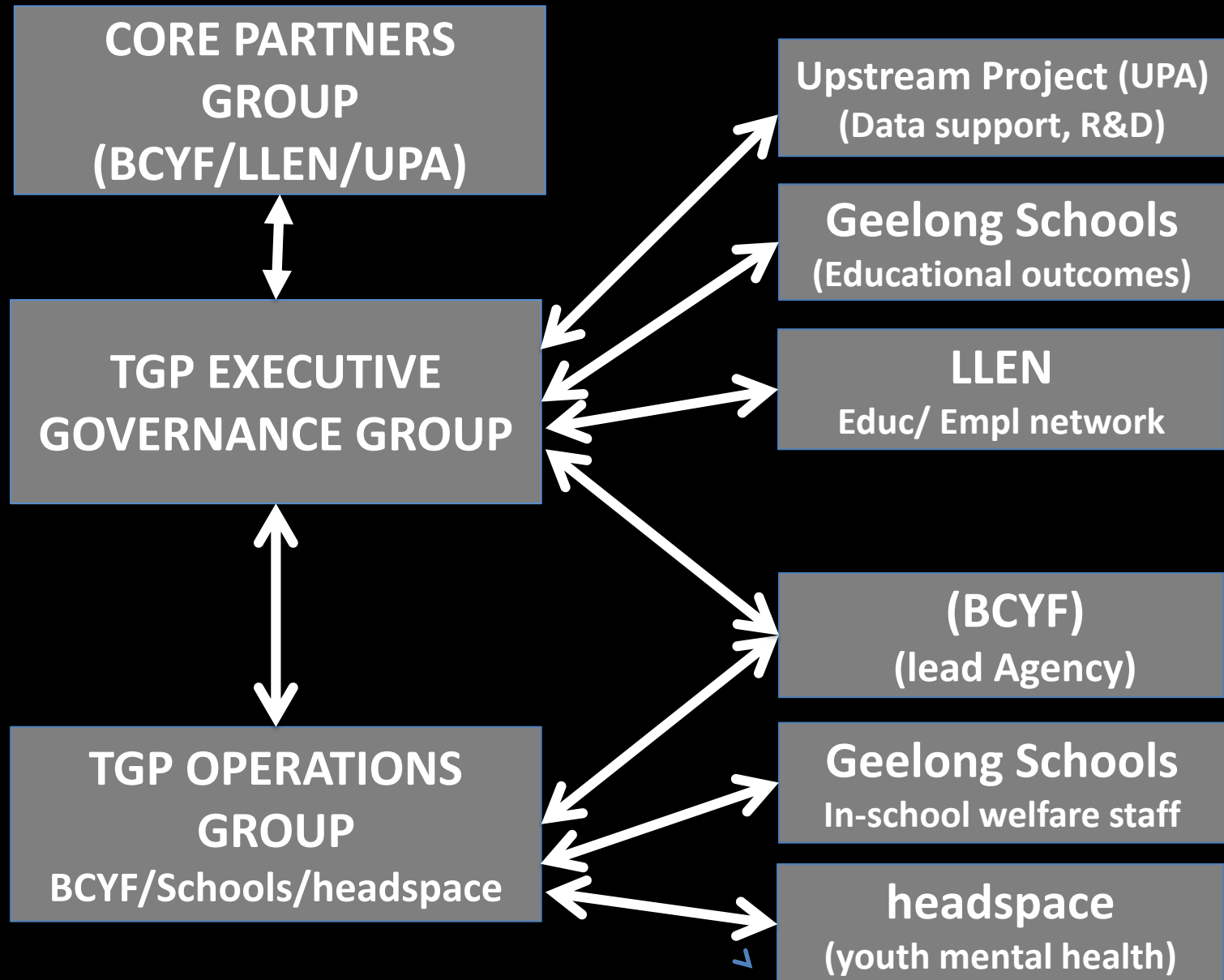
EARLY IDENTIFICATION: At-risk profile

Population Profile - three pilot schools in Geelong, AIAD 2017

Student Population
1277

At-risk of
homelessness
80 (4.6%)

Not At-risk of
Homelessness
1197 (95.4%)

Mental health
issues indicated
259 (21.6%

No mental health
issues indicate
938 (78.4%)

Low school
disengagement
225 (87%)

High school
disengagement
34 (13%)

High school
disengagement
22 (2.4%)

Low school
disengagement
916 (97.6%)

PRACTICE FRAMEWORK: Youth-Focused & Family-Centred whole-of-cohort interventions

Screening Process

Joint Decisions

TIER 1
- Some risk Active Monitoring
- Secondary Consultation

TIER 2
- Short-term intervention
- Case Management

TIER 3
- Wrap-around Case Work

Systematic monitoring within school supported by TGP/MGP

Referrals to other agency

Referrals to TGP/MGP

What results?

The number of homeless adolescents [Geelong 2002 – 2017]
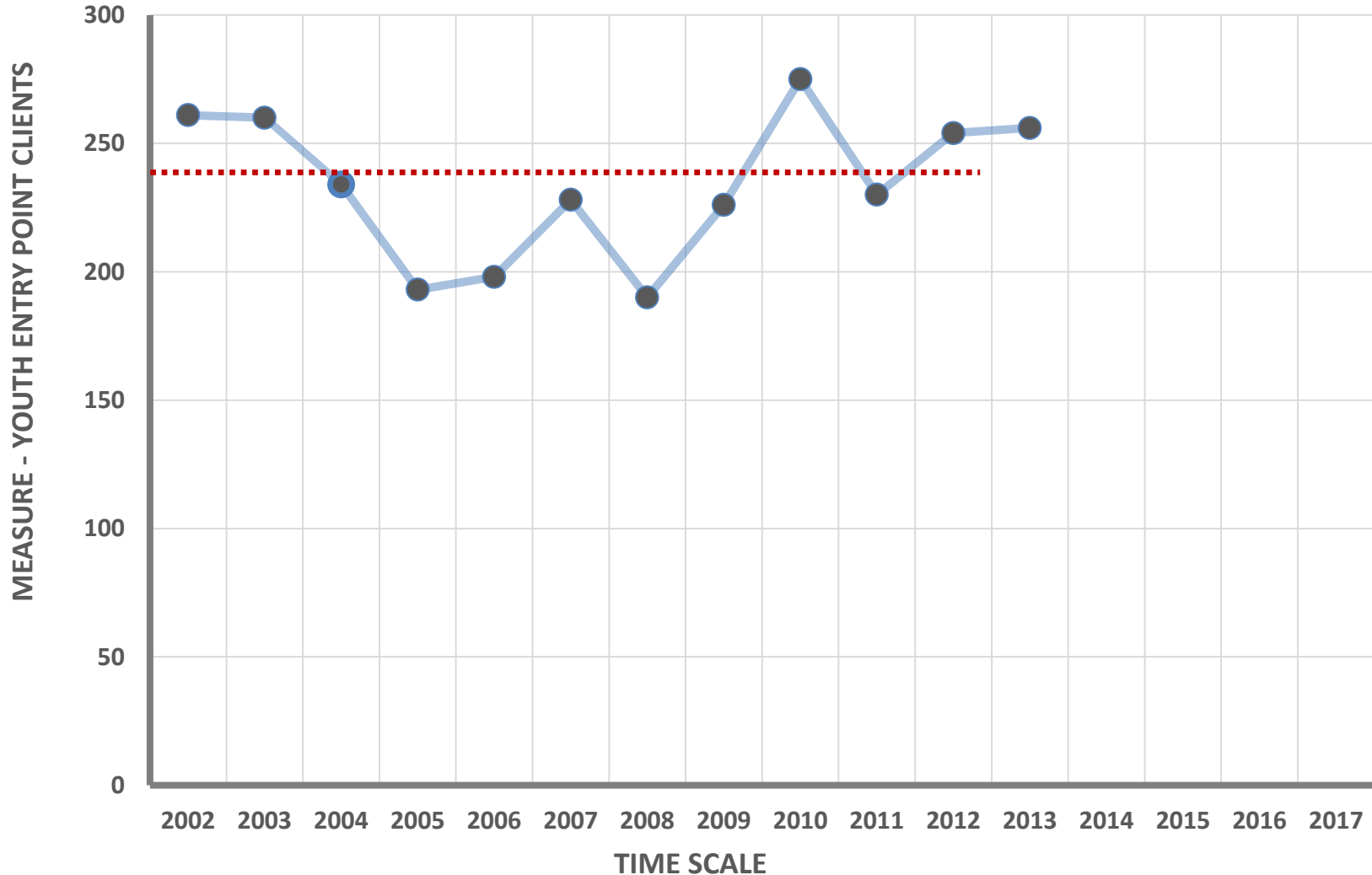
The number of homeless adolescents [Geelong 2002 – 2017]
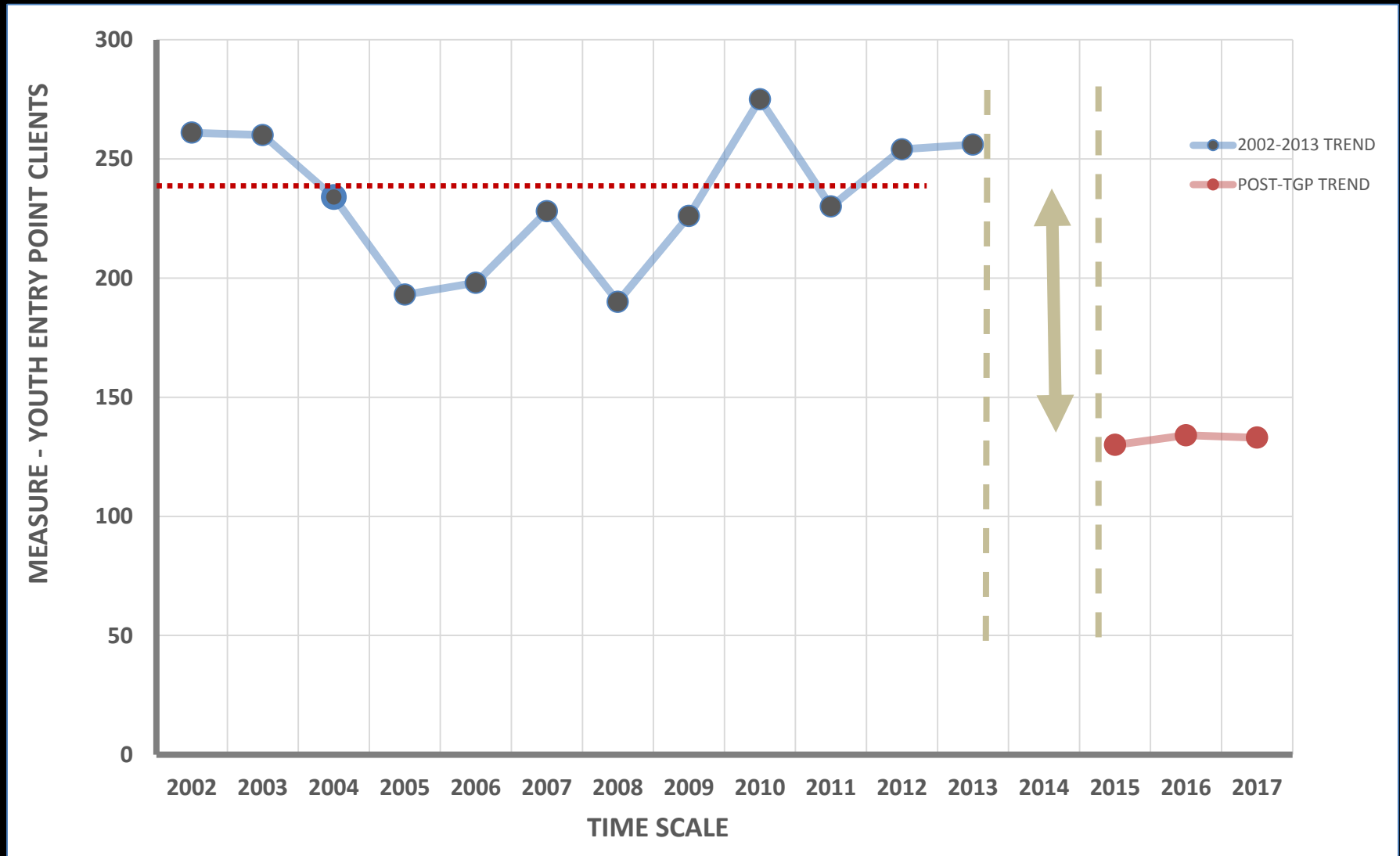
Geelong early school leavers
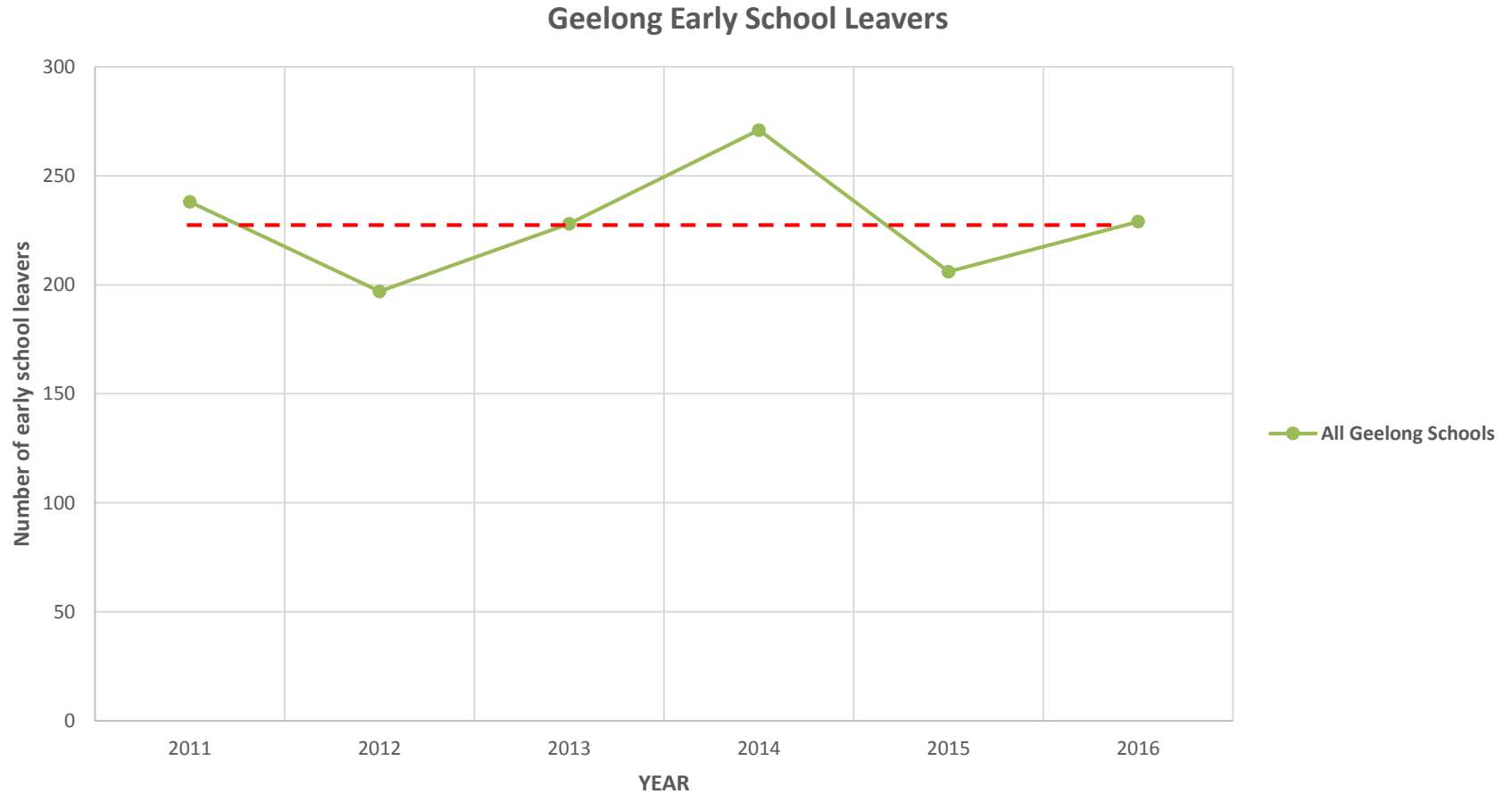
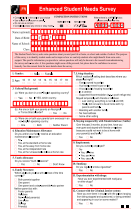# Geelong early school leavers
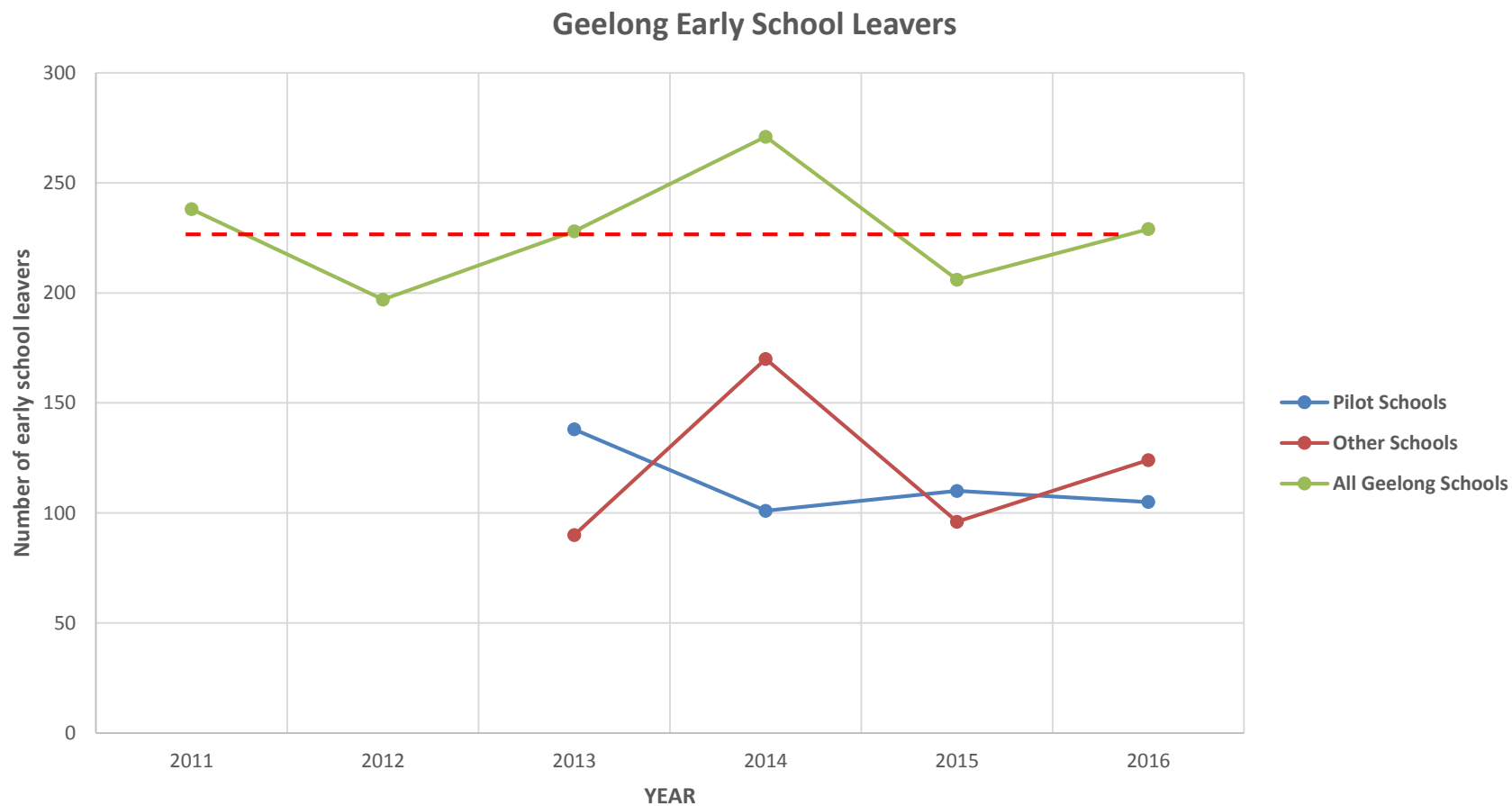
'Collective Impact'
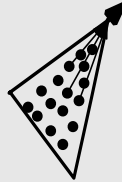
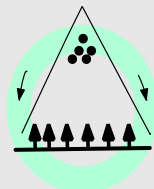|		
Common Agenda		All participants have a shared vision for change including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to its solution through agreed upon actions.
Shared Measurement		Data collection and measurement of outcomes consistently across all participants to ensure efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
Mutually Reinforcing Activities		The activities of participants may be different while still being tightly coordinated through a mutually agreed common plan of action.
Continuous Communication		Consistent and open communication amongst participants to build trust, assure mutual objectives and build common motivation.
Backbone Support		A skilled staff and organisational form to build and manage the entire collective impact initiative by coordinating the participant organisations and activities.

Organising for change ...
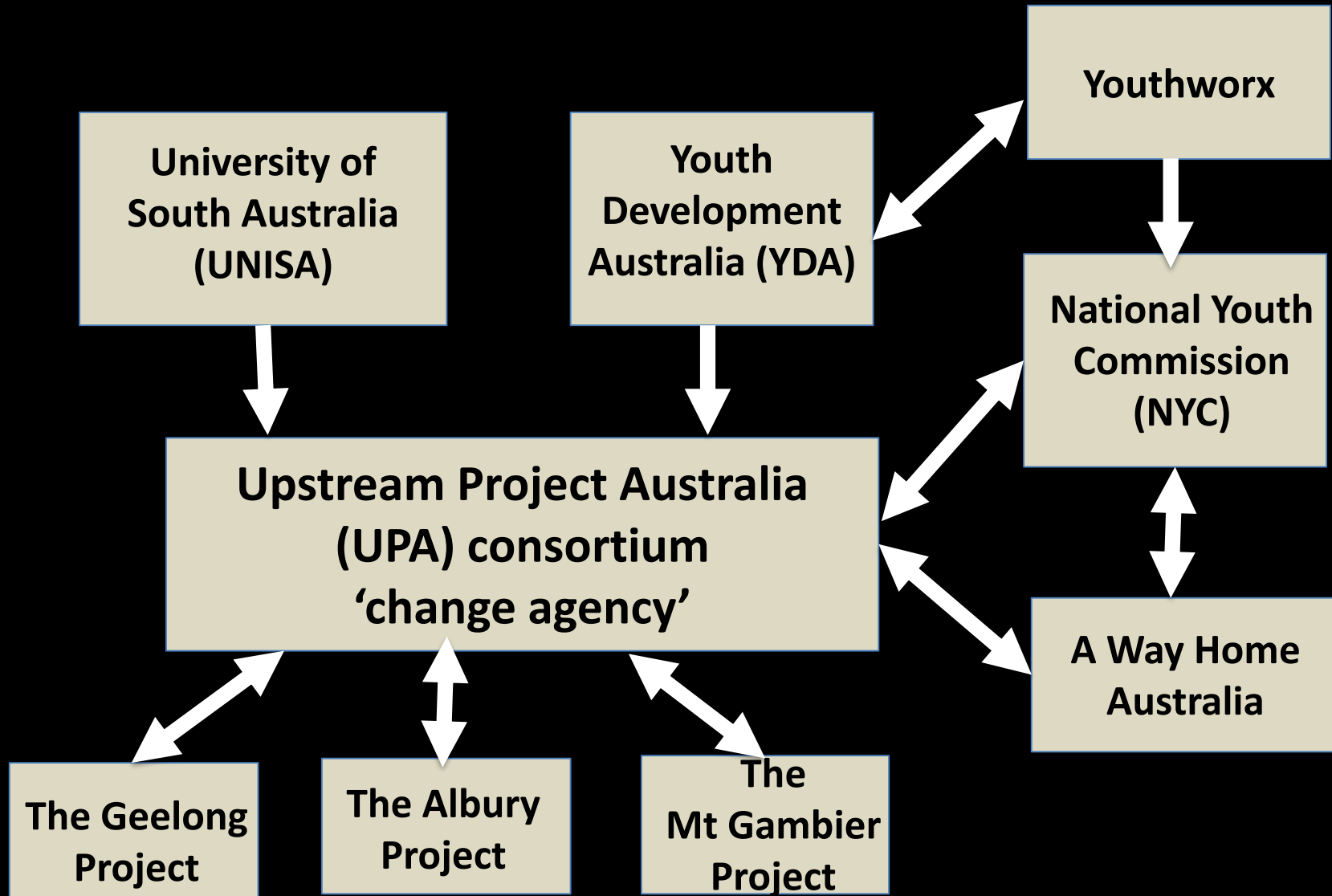
The challenge is place-based system reform and a cross-sectoral approach