

# THE COMPACT PROGRAM EVALUATION SNAPSHOT



## What is the COMPACT program?

The COMPACT Program builds community resilience in the face of hate, violence, fear and division.

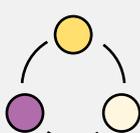
This was achieved by delivering \$8 million in grants funding, over 2–4 years from 2016, to 12 locally based projects that engage with young people.

The COMPACT Program is funded by the NSW Government and coordinated by Multicultural NSW.

Urbis was commissioned to undertake a midway evaluation of COMPACT in 2018, to inform future program management and funding decisions<sup>^</sup>.



The evaluation found COMPACT is a **first-of-its-kind initiative** by incorporating community-resilience building into the countering violent extremism (CVE) setting. The program design was shaped by an investigation of best practice initiatives, and consultation with the community.



A unique feature of the Program is the **COMPACT Alliance** – a network of over 30 project partners and government stakeholders which meets regularly to share learnings regarding community resilience and CVE.



Multicultural NSW successfully established **close working relationships** with each of the funded projects. This was achieved through the development of work plans and the support of the Project Coordinator.



Despite its innovative design and effective implementation, the evaluation identified some **opportunities to streamline the grants management process**, including reducing the complexity of the milestone payment schedule and providing a structure for data collection. Recommendations are outlined on page 3.

## Who has COMPACT reached?

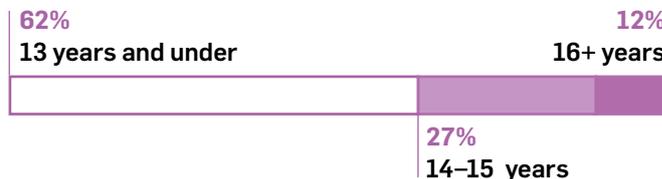
In August 2018, COMPACT had reached over 20,000 young people across 12 funded projects. Five of the 12 COMPACT projects have been delivered in schools, with over 130 schools involved in the Program. **This is a significant achievement considering the relatively short lifetime of the Program at the point of evaluation (2016-2018).**



### Gender



### Age\*



### Aboriginal status



### Linguistic diversity



### Top ten languages other than English spoken at home

1. Arabic
2. Vietnamese
3. Dari/Farsi/Persian
4. Greek
5. Spanish
6. Turkish
7. Italian
8. Samoan
9. Cantonese
10. Filipino/Tagalog

<sup>^</sup>Eight of the 12 funded projects were evaluated.  
\* Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

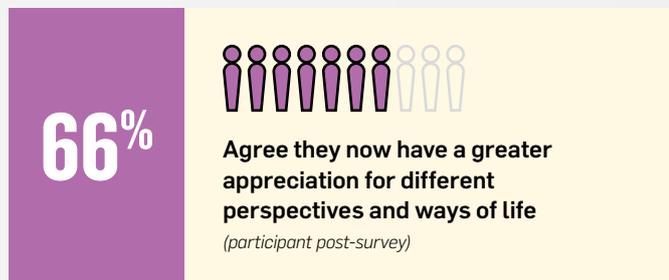


## What has COMPACT achieved for participants?

COMPACT has made **significant progress towards its objectives** of building community resilience and social cohesion over a relatively short period of time.

COMPACT contributes to **greater respect for others, improved engagement in learning, and greater community participation** among young people.

There is also early evidence COMPACT has contributed to an **increased sense of agency among young people, improved school attendance and greater participation in civic life**, including take up of leadership roles, involvement in community activities and increased volunteering.



**"He's attending school a lot more...he wouldn't miss a Wednesday because he loves the Program...but even in the classroom he's a lot more focused, a lot more determined, and he's actually completing his work".**

Teacher involved in the Program

**"[Participants] have been inspired to start taking initiative in the community...we had a young person start up her own organisation...a Muslim youth initiative".**

Project staff

**"We've been running this [project] since before COMPACT...[but] it actually gave us a network, a family ...knowing that we've got others that are on the same mission ... to build resilience in the community".**

COMPACT Alliance Partner

**"One of the things that has come out of our participation is this is direct access to DPC... they have been so key in... getting us really great meetings, putting us in contact with people".**

COMPACT Alliance Partner

## How effective was the COMPACT Alliance?

The Alliance has gained **considerable momentum** over the past three years, with some evidence of **knowledge sharing** and **new partnerships** among projects. The Alliance has also facilitated **cross-sector engagement** between government and community organisations.

Alliance partners have been involved in a range of initiatives as part of the broader NSW Government CVE program, including working with a number of CVE training, communications and intervention programs. This demonstrates the Alliance has **potential as an ongoing internal resource** for government in relation to CVE.

Despite these early signs of success, the Alliance **requires more support** to enable it to reach its potential as a sustainable network which can respond to threats to community harmony in times of need.

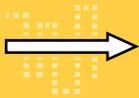


# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ROLL-OUT



## Continue funding the COMPACT Program

COMPACT has been found to be an innovative Program, successfully reaching over 20,000 young people and achieving significant progress towards its objectives in a short period of time. To build on this success, the NSW Government should continue funding the Program into the future.



## Streamline the grants management process

To support more efficient program management, Multicultural NSW should allow more time for workplan development, require organisations to outline their plan for partnership arrangements at the time of signing the Funding Agreement, and continue to resource the Program with suitably experienced staff who can effectively collaborate with the community sector.



## Support the Alliance to reach its full potential

To further increase engagement in the Alliance, Multicultural NSW should more clearly outline the funding allocation for time involved in the Alliance in project funding agreements.

Ownership of the Alliance can also be increased through funding a community-sector convenor to run meetings.

To enable further knowledge sharing within the Alliance, Multicultural NSW should create project summary sheets, establish a better platform for collaboration between meetings and allow more time for informal networking.

There is also potential to welcome partners with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and/or regional NSW focus into the Alliance.



## Continue to raise the profile of the Program

To educate the community about the Program and share best-practice learnings, Multicultural NSW should continue to use the support of its media communications team, as well as the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. Multicultural NSW should also continue its engagement with other policy-makers in the CVE and social cohesion settings, and consider welcoming additional content partners and media experts into the Alliance.



## Continue evaluation investment to measure the long-term impacts of COMPACT

To enable measurement of outcomes over the long term, the NSW Government should provide funding for a more comprehensive evaluation, which incorporates longitudinal data collection and in-depth consultation with participants. To support this evaluation, Multicultural NSW should provide a data collection template for the projects.