



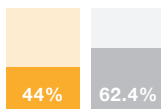
Go Goldfields aims to empower the community of Central Goldfields to aspire, achieve and live full lives. It is dedicated to redefining the future for the Goldfields region by empowering the community, building resilience and enhancing people's wellbeing.

Despite significant socioeconomic challenges, including high poverty rates, unemployment, and complex intergenerational trauma, Go Goldfields is dedicated to breaking the cycle of disadvantage through systems change and building local capacity.

Our approach

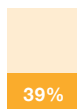
Go Goldfields is dedicated to place-based governance involving key regional decision-makers and community leaders to collaboratively address systemic barriers and support community wellbeing. This approach includes advocating policy change and resources to address context and need, enhancing local service coordination and engaging the community in co-designing services and programs to drive collective impact.

Key issues and statistics



Economic and social disadvantage

Central Goldfields has the highest poverty rates in Victoria, with a labour force participation rate of only 44%. Victorian average: 62.4%



Low household income

39% of households in the area are considered in the most disadvantaged quintile*.



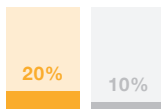
Health issues

Across the area there are high levels of poor health, family stress, historic abuse of both parent and child, and mental health issues*.



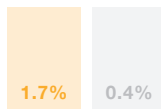
Geographic isolation:

Poor public transport connections to major service centres of Bendigo and Ballarat further limit access to essential services and supports, particularly those most disadvantaged.



Children are highly vulnerable

20% of children are considered vulnerable on two or more domains, when starting school, double the State average*.



Housing instability

1.7% of households live in improvised homes or portable housing, more than four times the State comparison.



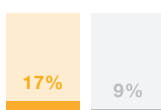
Service gaps and accessibility

There are significant gaps in allied healthcare, disability support, and childcare services. Many services are via outreach from larger regional towns, which lack local co-ordination and delay access to early intervention or crisis supports.

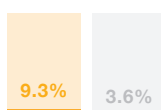


Community trust and engagement

Poor decisions, inconsistent funding, and a lack of accountability have eroded trust in institutions are compounded by limited social capital and fragmented service delivery.



Children witnessing violence is 17% Victorian average: 9%*.



Substance abuse in families is 9.3% which is 2.5 times higher than the State average*.



**Dual winner of 2024
Victorian Early Years Awards**

* Australian Early Childhood Development Index (2021) ^ Student Entrance Health Questionnaire, Victorian Department of Education (2021) + Index of Household of Advantage and Disadvantage, Australian Bureau of Statistics (2022)

Our strategies

Advocacy and policy change

We actively engage with policymakers to address systemic barriers and advocate for place-based solutions and resources that align with our vision.

Systems thinking design

We understand and address the complex interdependencies within the community.

Collaboration and partnership

We believe building partnerships and alliances with local organisations, service providers, and government entities enhances the effectiveness of social policies and services to the community.

Community engagement and co-design

We involve community and local stakeholders in the co-design process to ensure that our solutions are relevant and effective.

Innovation

We embrace creative service delivery models and innovative programs to address complex community issues.

Resource mobilisation

We seek out funding partnerships to sustain and expand programs and to ensure financial stability.

The challenge

Despite successes, entrenched socioeconomic disadvantage takes generations to overcome.

Continued financial support is critical to maintain momentum and achieve long-term change.

We need long-term financial support to sustain our backbone and deepen the impact of the Every Child, Every Chance initiative. With your support, we can ensure every child in Central Goldfields has every chance to thrive.

The Every Child, Every Chance initiative

Established in 2020, this initiative focuses on improving outcomes for children aged 0 to 8 and their families, ensuring every child in Central Goldfields has every chance to grow up healthy, safe, and confident.

We work collaboratively with our partners on the following priority areas:

- **Healthy and supported pregnancies**
- **Confident and connected parents**
- **Safe and thriving children**
- **Valued early years education and care**
- **A great start to school for all kids**

Go Goldfields has also opened The Nest, a safe and welcoming space for local parents and carers in central Maryborough. The Nest provides a critical community presence to foster collaboration and demonstrate our work.



Join us in making a lasting difference in the lives of children and families in Central Goldfields. Together, we can ensure every child has every chance to be healthy, safe, and confident.

go goldfields
Central Victoria

