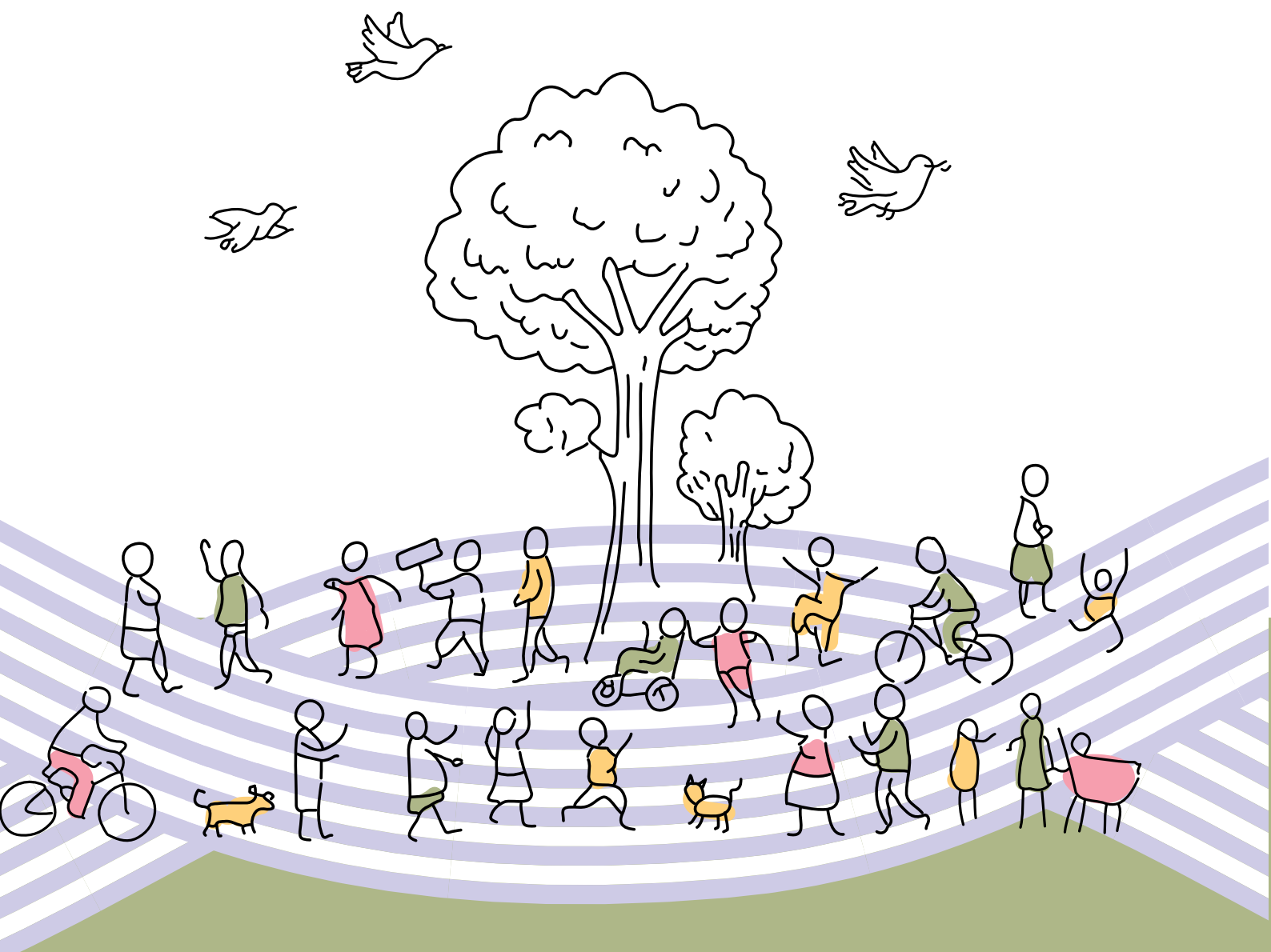


Setting the foundations: **Our strategy in the first 18 months**

STRATEGY 2026-2033



**Fay Fuller
Foundation**

Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge that our offices sit on the lands of the Kurna People and that they have been the custodians of this place for millennia.

We commit to remembering that the ground beneath our feet is infused with wisdom, stories, and songs that reach beyond our knowing. We are committed to collaboration that furthers self-determination and, as we go forward, we will continue to listen, learn, and be allies for a healing future.

We extend this acknowledgement to all First Nations Peoples and pay our respects to Elders of the past, present and into the future.



Artwork by Iteka Ukarla Sanderson-Bromley
(Adnyamathanha, Narungga, Yarluyandi)

SETTING THE FOUNDATIONS: OUR STRATEGY IN THE FIRST 18 MONTHS

In 2026 the Foundation shared a new seven-year strategy that sets the direction for our work in the years ahead. At its heart is a belief that communities hold the knowledge, relationships and leadership needed to shape their own wellbeing futures – grounded in connection, culture, identity and collective care.

This strategy grew from many conversations with communities, partners and organisations who are working every day to strengthen mental health and wellbeing in their places. These conversations helped us better understand what supports community leadership, and what gets in the way.

This document signals how we will begin putting the strategy into practice over the next 18 months.

Some of the actions reflect a deepening of work we are already doing with long-term partners. Others involve opening new relationships, learning alongside others, and exploring new ways of supporting community-led approaches to wellbeing.

Across all of this work, the Foundation will continue to act as a supporter, connector and enabler – walking alongside communities and partners as they develop their own ideas and solutions.

The next 18 months will focus on building the foundations that allow this work to grow over time.



Strategic Pillar 1

Backing Community-led Wellbeing

What we heard

Communities value the opportunity to work differently from traditional service and funding systems – to try new ideas, explore possibilities and take the time needed for meaningful change.

However, many communities told us that the current funding environment can make this difficult.

Common challenges include:

- Limited funding available for community-led and preventative approaches
- Funding processes that prioritise short timelines and narrow measures of success
- A lack of support structures to help promising ideas grow and spread
- The need for longer-term support to move from early learning into lasting change

Setting the foundations over the next 18 months looks like:

Continue our long-term partnerships with Our Town and Spinifex Foundation SA, supporting them to share their learnings and inspire broader interest and investment in community-led wellbeing approaches.

Begin building relationships with other funders and partners interested in supporting community-led preventative approaches to mental health and wellbeing, with the intent to explore opportunities for collaborative or collective funding partnerships.

Where the work of our current Spark and Discovery partners shows promise, extend financial and relational support to enable approaches to take hold within community, practice, and the systems that shape them.

Move our Spark Grant funding from a two-year cycle to an annual opportunity, creating regular and ongoing pathways for communities to explore new ideas that support mental health and wellbeing.

Strategy 2026-2033

<p>Strategic Intents</p>	<p>Promote a different way & narrative for community wellbeing</p>
<p>The change we want to see</p>	<p>Stronger everyday conditions in communities that support mental health and wellbeing — grounded in prevention, belonging, identity and culture</p>
<p>We will</p>	<p>Fund and support community groups to learn, trial and develop their own approaches</p> <p>+</p> <p>Contribute to developing a strengths based understanding of what builds collective conditions for mental health and wellbeing</p> <p>+</p> <p>Amplify narratives of community strengths, self-determination, identity and collective care</p>



Strategic Pillar 2

Enabling What Makes Community-led Wellbeing Possible

What we heard

Community wellbeing does not come from projects alone.

It grows through relationships, leadership, shared spaces, cultural strength and the ability for communities to organise and make decisions together. Communities spoke about the importance of investing in the broader conditions that allow community-led work to flourish.

These conditions include:

- Local leadership and governance
- Trusted relationships
- Places to gather
- Shared knowledge and capability
- Community-owned or community-directed assets and resources

Supporting these conditions is essential for long-term wellbeing.

Setting the foundations over the next 18 months looks like:

Connect community leaders, practitioners and partners who are working on governance, leadership and community-led change making to share knowledge, support one another and access useful tools or training.

Build new relationships and learning exchanges focused on community wealth building, including exploring the role of accessible community spaces and locally held assets.

Invest in national and international relationships that allow us to exchange practice, deepen trust and learn alongside others working on community-led wellbeing.

Work with philanthropic peers and government stakeholders to explore how systems can better support and resource community-led work – including new models such as community-led funds and community-owned assets.

Strategy 2026-2033

Strategic Intents	Build community wealth & access to capital	Strengthen community leadership & agency	Expand community spaces & physical infrastructure
The change we want to see	Communities control growing, long-term sources of funding aligned to their priorities, reducing reliance on short-term grants	Communities have the leadership, relationships and tools to shape their own wellbeing futures	Communities have accessible, culturally appropriate spaces that support connection, leadership and collective action
We will	Invest in and attract resources into community held funds + Back innovative models for mobilising capital that bring communities and funders together + Connect communities working on wealth building for sharing and influence	Fund capability building opportunities for community leadership + Resource tools and structures needed for community governance + Support community leaders to demonstrate what is possible through community governance	Invest in and pool resources for new community-owned assets and shared spaces + Fund the development and demonstration of community-led infrastructure models + Advocate for greater community access to shared public spaces

Strategic Pillar 3

Spreading the Reach and Influence of Community-led Change

What we heard

Across many communities there is already a growing body of knowledge, evidence and experience about what supports wellbeing.

However, this knowledge does not always translate into broader systems change.

Communities and partners spoke about the importance of:

- Sharing stories and evidence in ways that reflect community voice
- Strengthening connections across sectors
- Building collective momentum for approaches that support wellbeing from the ground up

Funders can play an important role in helping create space for these connections and conversations.

Setting the foundations over the next 18 months looks like:

Resource and support our extended partner networks to gather and share their own stories, evidence and insights in ways that reflect community voice and priorities.

Bring partners from different sectors and places together to share practice, learn from one another and explore areas of shared interest.

Resource collaborations that help surface and strengthen community-led approaches to mental health and wellbeing.

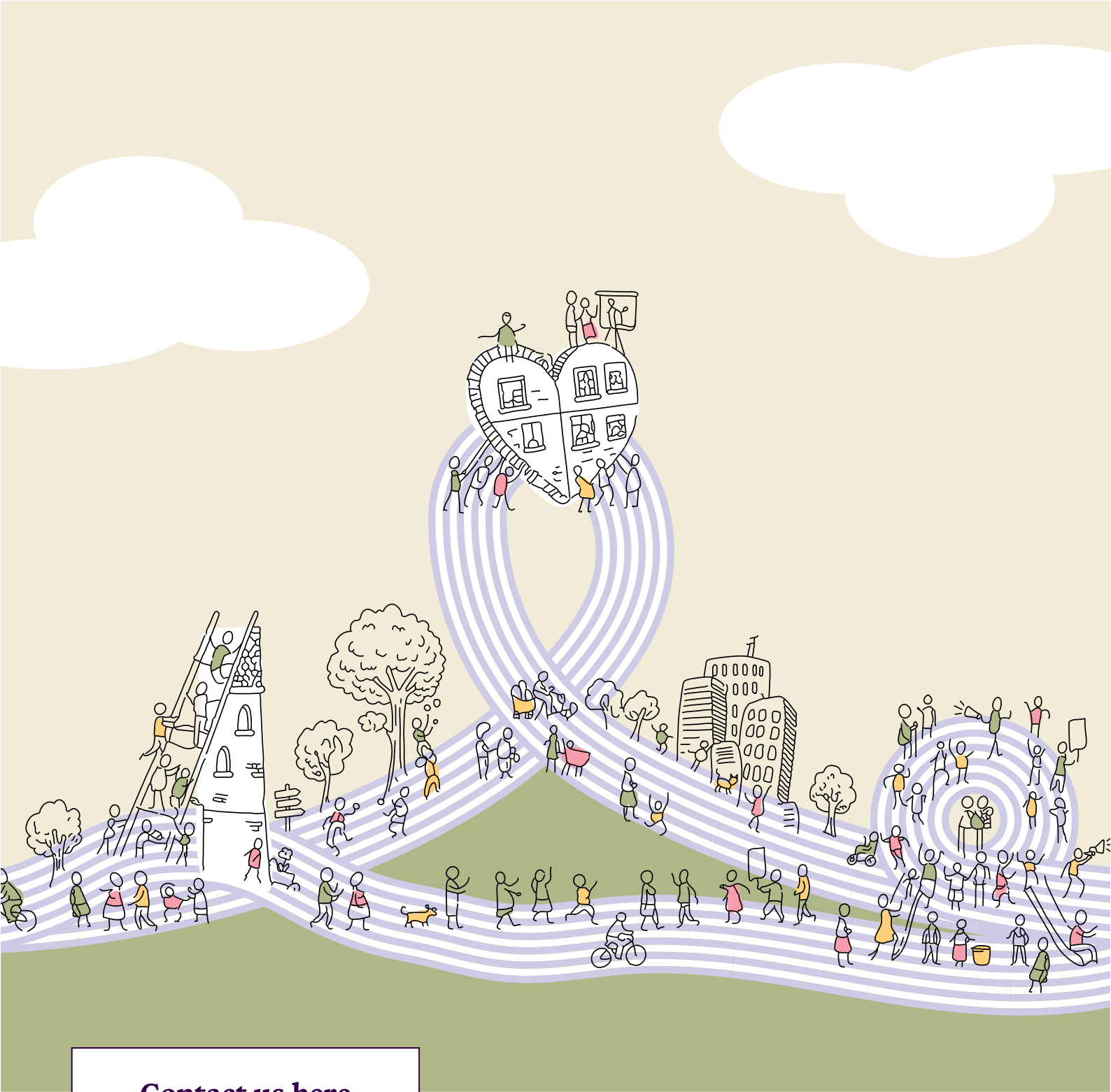
Test new ways of sharing the Foundation's own learnings about funding practices and conditions that support community-led work.

Continue building relationships across philanthropy, government and community networks to better understand the systems that shape wellbeing.

Explore the potential for shared learning mechanisms that support ongoing reflection and accountability across funders and partners.

Strategy 2026-2033

Strategic Intents	Strengthen pathways for community stories & evidence	Build out the collective community movement for change	Negotiate with systems
The change we want to see	Community knowledge, stories and lived experience shape decisions and narrative	Communities are connected through a wider movement, sharing what works and strengthening their collective voice	Funders and governments work in genuine partnership with communities, adapting policy, practice and investment to community priorities
We will	<p>Resource communities to create, tell and share their own stories</p> <p>+ Shift acceptance of diverse evidence forms, across lived experience, stories and community knowledge</p> <p>+ Weave community evidence with broader data and evidence, amplifying community knowledge in shaping systems</p>	<p>Support peer-to-peer learning so communities share what works</p> <p>+ Resource the growth and spread of community leaders and change makers to carry the work forward</p> <p>+ Back testing and learning work in historically excluded communities</p>	<p>Broker shared decision-making spaces with community leaders alongside funders and government</p> <p>+ Build trusted cross system relationships that present pathways for communities to influence funding, policy and practice</p> <p>+ Advocate for long term, preventative and relational funding models</p>



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