Analysing data to identify partnership goals

It's always important to conduct rigorous analysis of what is going on in the school and broader community as a vital first step in making a partnership strategic and sustainable.

Completing an initial environmental scan contributes to building a strong evidence base to support your partnership development. It can also help establish open conversations between organisations, building confident and trusting relationships.

For schools, this involves scanning school data on:

• school performance reports
• relevant socio-demographics of the area
• fluctuations in student outcomes over time on a range of measures
• student cohort characteristics.

This analysis should help identify school priorities, issues or needs that might be addressed through partnership activity.

Broader environmental scans across the school community, network or region can complement a school's data analysis. This involves scanning school performance reports to explore consistent gaps which then can be discussed with your school community.

Schools should contact a variety of organisations or networks to access and share data, explore synergies and build collaborative work practices. Some contacts or websites that provide data include:

• DataZone (available through eduGate) contains relevant data such as the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI).
• Local government - for community profiles, community engagement outcomes and analysis identifying local issues.
• Local Learning Employment Network (LLEN) who complete annual data profiling and environmental scans.
• School Focused Youth Service (SFYS) who complete an annual mapping process providing local profiles of the community, young people, service provision and schools.
• Community Indicators Victoria, which provides local level data through Wellbeing Reports and a community wellbeing indicator framework.
• Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) to explore the different types of community organisations in your area, who also may be willing to share local, network or regional data.
• Other local networks, such as the Regional Youth Affairs Network and Neighbourhood Renewal or Community Renewal project groups.

More information

• DataZone (https://portal.eduweb.vic.gov.au/datazone/Pages/default.aspx)
• Community Indicators Victoria (http://www.communityindicators.net.au)
• VCOSS (http://www.vcoss.org.au/)
• Local Learning and Employment Network (http://www.llen.vic.gov.au/)
• School Focused Youth Service (http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/sfys.aspx)
• Regional Youth Affairs Networks (http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/plans,-programs-and-projects/plans-and-strategies/youth-specific/regional-youth-affairs-networks)
• Neighbourhood Renewal (http://www.neighbourhoodrenewal.vic.gov.au)
• Community Renewal (http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/)