Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project: Social Return on Investment FY2024-26

Report Summary for Government

30 September 2026

About Lighthouse

The Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project (Lighthouse) is a place-based, collective impact initiative that works to improve the outcomes of young people in the Greater Shepparton community from conception through to career (0-24). Established in 2014, Lighthouse partners across the community to build capability and prevent issues such as social isolation, systemic disadvantage and poor school engagement.

Social Return on Investment

In August 2026, Lighthouse engaged Social Ventures Australia Consulting (SVA Consulting) to evaluate the impact, social value and social return of investment (SROI) generated by the organisation's activities between July 2023 and June 2026.

Social value refers to the broader societal benefit of a program or organisation, beyond the economic value, and is calculated using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology. Guided by Social Value International, this is an internationally recognised, principles-based approach that allows us to understand, measure and assign a value to the broader social, economic, and systemic impacts of an organisation's work.

The evaluation was informed by consultations with 30 key Lighthouse stakeholders including partners, volunteers, government bodies and community members, in addition to over 400 outcomes surveys collected directly from young people and families attending Lighthouse, program volunteers and teachers partnering with Lighthouse.

Social value creation

Lighthouse's activities have delivered an SROI ratio of **3.8:1** based on the investment and operations in the three-year period between July 2023 and June 2026.

That is, for every **$1** of cash invested, approximately **$3.80** of social and economic value was created.

$20.6m
Total Social Value generated

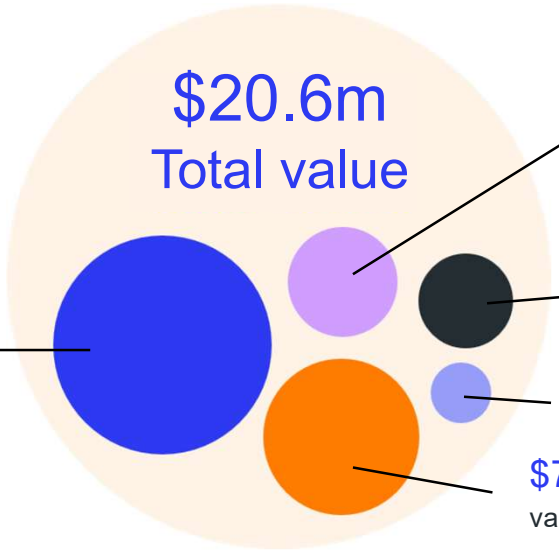
$5.46m
Total investment

3.8:1
SROI Ratio

Lighthouse generates value for a range of stakeholders

This evaluation demonstrates how Lighthouse's role as a place-based, collective impact backbone organisation, and their work to alleviate and prevent disadvantage, creates significant, interconnected social and economic value* across the Greater Shepparton region.

The evaluation considered key changes experienced by children, families, volunteers and partners, and the broader Greater Shepparton community, in addition to the impact generated for government agencies.



$1.9m
value generated for parents and carers attending Lighthouse programs

$836k
value generated for community

$800k
value generated for partners and volunteers

$7.7m
value generated for government

$9.8m
generated for children and young people attending Lighthouse programs

An annual real discount rate of 7% has been applied to the total social value in accordance with best practice. The sum of stakeholder values may not equal total value due to rounding and the discount rate being applied to the total value only.

Key Savings for Government

Between July 2023 and June 2026, Lighthouse generated **$7.7m** of social value for government agencies.

This value creation was a result of the outcomes and value created through the backbone activities and the initiatives for other stakeholders. This is additional social value that is created for government agencies.

$7.7m
value generated for government

Benefit to government	Value over five years
Increased tax revenue through increased employment for both young people and adult family members attending Lighthouse programs	$3.65m
Reduced welfare costs through increased employment for both young people and adult family members	$2.57m
Reduced justice costs through reduced interaction with the justice system for young people	$1.34m
Savings generated through **early intervention referrals** for young children leading to reduced future need	$133k

For further information, please refer to the full report

For further details about Lighthouse, the evaluation methodology, and the social value created, please refer to the full SROI report, available here:

LighthouseProject
GREATER SHEPPARTON

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