Our strategic identity

info@handsofchange.org.au

Vision - Our North Star

A collaborative professional sector that has a collective understanding AND adoption of the categories within Equine Assisted Services.

Our purpose - Why we exist

To protect and support the welfare of horses, participants and facilitators involved in Equine Assisted Learning.

The Mission - How we will deliver to our vision

Advocate for standard policies and frameworks to deliver best practice Equine Assisted Learning. Continuing education and professional development are key. We will drive continuous improvement through evidence-based research in Equine Assisted Services.

www.handsofchange.org.au

Our Strategic Pillars to FY30

PILLAR 1 Participant welfare	Deliver impactful programs that are designed and measured using research-based theory and principles. Evolve and improve our programs using an evidence-based approach.
PILLAR 2 Facilitator welfare	Educate and raise the need for professional development by contributing to research, delivering accredited training and being transparent of service offerings.
PILLAR 3 Horse welfare	Advocate for the recognition of the working equine in Equine Assisted Services and raise the professionalism in the sector.

OUR IMPACT SINCE 2019

Most Significant Change Story - Domain of Confidence

Note: This story is told from the perspective of the teacher. Name has been changed for privacy.

"Sadie" participated in the YELP program for the first time as a Grade 5 student in 2025. At the beginning of the year, she was quite shy and often hesitant to share her ideas, and she sometimes struggled with self-confidence in group settings. As the program progressed, however, we saw a remarkable shift. Within her team, she gradually found her voice - contributing ideas, supporting her peers, and stepping into leadership roles with increasing assurance.

One of the standout moments of her growth was her participation in an event, where she confidently presented alongside her team. This was a significant milestone for her and a clear reflection of how much she had developed throughout the program.

The YELP experience provided her with a safe, supportive environment to take risks, build her confidence, and recognise her own strengths. This growth has continued beyond the program, and we are incredibly proud of her as she demonstrates her leadership skills. Her journey is a wonderful example of how empowering opportunities can help students discover their potential.

Equihands Youth Leadership Program

Who: Meredith Primary School
Bannockburn College
Other young people

When: July 2019 to March 2020

Number: 43 participants

Nurturing Young Minds (NYM)

Who: Meredith Primary School

When: Sept 2020 to Dec 2023

Number: 98 students

Youth Executive Learning Program (YELP)

Who: Meredith Primary School

When: April 2024 to April 2026

Number: 52 students