



Australian  
National  
University

# ASCEND

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL COHESION: EXPLORING NEW DIRECTIONS**

*Strengthening social cohesion for  
the prosperity and wellbeing of all Australians*

## SYNTHESIS

### **Current state of social cohesion**

Investigate existing measurement of social cohesion across disciplines and collate indicators to develop a new measurement tool to identify antecedents, facilitators, barriers and outcomes of social cohesion.

## STOCKTAKE

### **Successes, failures, challenges**

Which initiatives show promise in strengthening social cohesion? We'll look at targeted communities and take stock of government community grants, social enterprises and the effectiveness of laws on improving social cohesion.

## SOLVE

### **Community solutions**

Co-designing interventions to strengthen social cohesion. We will design and trial best practice engagement in communities and assess potential risks.

## SCALEUP

### **Increase scale & impact**

Design strategies for communities to implement independently. Encourage wider uptake and growth of social cohesion interventions through innovative funding models to test for enhanced social policy outcomes.

## SHARE

### **Promoting knowledge**

Build networks and forums to shape the national conversation and promote knowledge to increase impact.

## **Help us shape the future of social cohesion**

We are a research team working with government and communities to improve social cohesion.  
Find out more:

[www.anu.edu.au/research/research-initiatives/australian-social-cohesion-exploring-new-directions](http://www.anu.edu.au/research/research-initiatives/australian-social-cohesion-exploring-new-directions)