



collaborative policy studio

co-creating public policies to build
your connected community



HUMANS:CONNECTING



welcome



Welcome to HUMANIS:CONNECTING's Collaborative Policy Studio

We co-create bold, practical policies that address loneliness and build connected communities.

Backed by decades of public service expertise, lived experience, and input from other subject matter experts, we partner with governments and communities to turn ideas into real-world impact.

Co-creating policies to build your connected communities, we're with you every step — from first idea to implementation and review.

Discover how we can help you move from awareness to action.



HUMANIS:CONNECTING

about us

HUMANS:CONNECTING's Collaborative Policy Studio was founded by Phil McAuliffe, a former public servant with more than two decades of experience in diplomacy, strategic policy, program management and service delivery across Australian and international government systems.

Phil brings a rare combination of deep policy expertise and lived experience of social disconnection — allowing the studio to offer grounded, human-centred support to governments tackling complex social challenges like loneliness and belonging.

We are not observers. We offer rare skills and insight, and are committed to helping governments co-create policy that is inclusive, evidence-informed, and built to last.



Co-creating public policies
to build your connected
community

our expertise



career in public service

Phil McAuliffe is a seasoned public servant with 23 years of experience in diplomacy, policy, and service reform across Australia and overseas.

He brings deep expertise in navigating government processes to turn complex ideas into practical outcomes.



tailored policy design

Phil specialises in crafting tailored, innovative policies that reflect the unique needs of each community, drawing on local insights, political context, and real-world practicality.



academic credentials

Phil holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Science (International Relations) from the University of Melbourne and a postgraduate degree in Public Policy and Governance from Deakin University.

stakeholder engagement & management



Phil has collaborated with diverse stakeholders—from community groups to foreign governments—facilitating respectful dialogue to manage disagreements and build trust toward practical, shared solutions.

lived experience of loneliness



Drawing on lived experience, not just theory, Phil brings depth and empathy to complex policy areas like loneliness, transforming abstract issues into meaningful conversations that build consensus and move communities forward.

our approach

We know government and we know loneliness.

That combination matters.

We understand the importance of due process, accountability, and the public good. At the same time, we recognise that the scale and urgency of loneliness and social disconnection requires governments to act boldly and creatively.

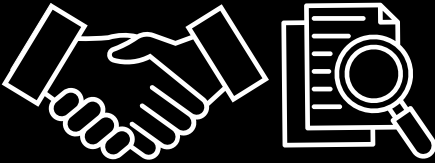
Policy design must be adaptive. Theory must serve context — not the other way around.

Our studio is grounded in the practical realities of policymaking and the human realities of disconnection. We work in partnership with governments, experts, and community members to create policies that are:

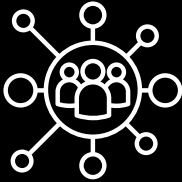
- **Co-designed:** We work with people, not just for them.
- **Practical and inclusive:** Built to work in diverse, real-world settings.
- **Strategic:** Designed to navigate government systems and decision points.
- **Enduring:** Created to have lasting, measurable impact.

We don't deliver reports that gather dust. We help you design and implement policies that build real connection and hold up long after the media release.

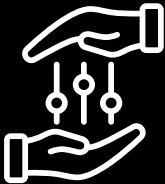
our approach



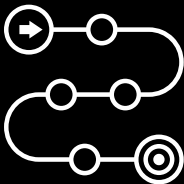
Collaborative &
evidence-based



Co-design with
communities



Tailored &
practical policies



Strategic navigation of
government processes



Building local capacity
for long-term impact



how we
serve you

our services

We support governments at all levels to develop policy responses that address loneliness, social disconnection and strengthen social health.

Our work spans the full policy lifecycle — from early-stage ideations, legislative inquiries, policy proposals, policy development, implementation and review, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building.

Every service is tailored and can be adapted to your context and guided by evidence, experience and collaboration. Here's how we can serve you.

1 policy ideation and design

Turn awareness into action with purpose-driven, community-informed policy design.

We partner with you to uncover the unique challenges and opportunities within your community. Through our collaborative and participatory approach, we co-design potential policy responses that address the root causes of social disconnection in your community. The aim is to weave connection, belonging, and wellbeing into your initial policy response.

This service is ideal as a starting point for governments ready to explore potential policy responses to loneliness and social disconnection in their communities.

Whether you're launching a new initiative or rethinking existing approaches, we'll help you shift from complexity and confusion to clarity and co-created action.

our services

2 government enquiries

Ensure your voice is heard where it matters most.

We support individuals, communities, and organisations to actively engage with formal legislative inquiries into loneliness and social connection.

Whether you're responding to a government call for submissions or preparing to appear before a legislative committee, we help you contribute with clarity, confidence, and credibility.

From drafting compelling written submissions to shaping your hearing strategy, we work with you to elevate lived experience, evidence, and local insights — ensuring they play a meaningful role in shaping early-stage policy decisions.

Our approach is collaborative, strategic, and grounded in deep knowledge of the policy landscape.

Together, we help shape narratives and influence change at the systems level.

our services

3 new policy proposals

Turn bold ideas into credible, actionable policy.

We work alongside you to develop robust policy proposals ready for Cabinet submissions, budget bids, or other key decision-making processes.

Whether you're advocating for new investment, program expansion, or systemic change, we help you translate ideas into formal proposals that are clear, persuasive, and ready to make a positive impact.

Our approach combines strategic insight with strong evidence, ensuring your proposal aligns with wider government priorities, reflects community needs, and delivers measurable outcomes.

From drafting case-making documents to shaping costings and implementation pathways, we provide the structure and substance needed to influence decisions at the highest levels.

Backed by expertise in both policy design and political context, we help you position your proposal to be heard — and acted on.

our services

policy: development, implementation and review

Support at every stage of the policy development cycle — grounded, inclusive, and responsive.

We work with you across all parts of the policy development cycle, from initial drafting and stakeholder engagement to implementation and delivery to post-rollout review. Whether you're refining an existing policy or creating something entirely new, we help ensure your approach is clear, connected, and fit for purpose.

Our process is collaborative and tailored — no one-size-fits-all templates. We design policies that reflect the realities, strengths, and needs of your specific community, ensuring they are not only well-devised and well-written but also workable on the ground.

With deep experience in both systems thinking and on-the-ground practice, we help you embed meaningful human connection into your policy work — creating lasting impact from design to delivery and beyond.

our services

5 stakeholder engagement

Inclusive policy starts with meaningful engagement.

It can also quickly end with poor engagement.

We bring together government, community members with lived experience, and subject matter experts to co-create policy that is both inclusive and implementable. By creating spaces where all voices can be heard — especially those most affected — we ensure your policies are not only well-informed but deeply grounded in real-world perspectives.

Our facilitation approach is based on extensive experience. It's trusted, respectful and collaborative, helping to build relationships that extend beyond the policy process. The result is stronger buy-in, more relevant solutions, and long-term outcomes that matter to the communities you serve.

our services

6 capacity building

There's nothing worse than consultants who design roles only they can fill. *That's not us.*

We help you build the muscle to lead this work — without relying on us to stay.

We work with your team to strengthen the skills, confidence and insight needed to address loneliness, strengthen social connection, and foster social health. Through tailored training, mentoring and knowledge-sharing, we ensure your people are equipped to lead this work confidently and independently, long after our engagement ends.

You'll gain practical tools, evidence-informed frameworks, and a deeper understanding of what works — so you can create lasting impact from within.



types of
communities
we work with

who we work with

communities in transition

Supporting communities during times of change.

Loneliness and disconnection often emerge during periods of transition — not just for individuals, but for entire communities. Large-scale shifts such as population ageing, migration, urbanisation, gentrification, deindustrialisation, housing pressures, and economic upheaval can fracture social networks and erode community connection.

We work with governments to design responsive, future-focused policy that addresses these structural changes. By fostering social infrastructure, strengthening resilience, and embedding connection into the fabric of transition planning and response, we help communities navigate change while staying connected, cohesive, and inclusive.

transient communities

Creating belonging in places of constant churn.

Communities shaped by high turnover — such as university towns, FIFO/DIDO workforces, or military bases — often face unique challenges in building and maintaining strong social ties. While some residents come and go, others stay long-term — and both groups benefit when there's a shared sense of connection and belonging.

We support governments and local leaders to develop tailored policies and programs that bridge these divides. Through inclusive engagement and place-based strategies, we help create environments where both temporary and permanent residents feel welcomed, valued, and part of something larger.

who we work with

communities experiencing elevated loneliness and social isolation

Turning insight into action.

As global, national and local data make the prevalence of loneliness and social disconnection clearer, many governments are now facing a vital question: *what next?*

Knowing where the problem exists is just the beginning. We support communities with elevated rates of loneliness and social disconnection to move from diagnosis to action — co-designing targeted, place-based responses that address root causes, build local capability, and create lasting pathways to connection, belonging, and social wellbeing.

upstream responses to antisocial behaviour and extremism

Addressing disconnection before it turns harmful.

Antisocial and extremist behaviours don't emerge in a vacuum. They can take hold in environments where people feel excluded, isolated, or disconnected from society. While enforcement has a role, long-term solutions must reach upstream to the social drivers of these behaviours.

We work with governments to develop proactive, community-centred policy that strengthens connection, supports inclusion, and addresses the underlying conditions that allow harmful ideologies and behaviours to grow.

By embedding belonging and trust into early intervention strategies, we help build safer, more cohesive communities from the ground up.

HUMANS:CONNECTING is here to help

The **HUMANS:CONNECTING** team and I are here to serve you and your community.

We look forward to co-creating public policies that help the humans in your community feel connected and that they belong.

Book your call with us and let's discuss how we can best support you and those you serve.

~ Phil





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your connected community

let's get started



www.humansconnecting.org/collaborative-policy-studio



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