



culturev8

Professionals enhancing community led development.

Capability Statement



culturev8.com.au



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Our story

Culturev8 was founded by Dr Chris McLaughlin, whose work across the Torres Strait and regional Australia shaped his philosophy that culture is the foundation of strong, resilient communities.

His experience supporting regional, rural, remote and Indigenous communities, alongside government, industry, and the non-profit sector, continues to guide our approach.

Today, we are a trusted multidisciplinary consultancy supporting councils, NGOs, and private sector partners across Queensland, and beyond.

We strengthen communities through culturally grounded engagement, and support organisations with strategic, practical solutions that deliver real impact.

We feel so strongly about this philosophy that we named ourselves after it...

cultivating culture (culturev8).

Our services

At culturev8, we offer our clients professional integrated services in law, business strategy, and engagement, aimed at enhancing community led development.

We support community and service organisations, businesses and local governments, to navigate the unique complexity of regional, rural, remote and Indigenous communities, and deliver on community vision. Our key specialties include:

Strategic Planning & Business Development

Strategy, policy development, organisational planning, and capacity building, tailored to local priorities and operational realities.

Legal, Governance & Compliance

Advice on legislation, regulatory compliance, governance frameworks, and policy.

Change Management

Support for risk identification and mitigation alongside practical strategies for organisational change, and workforce adaptation.

Stakeholder Engagement & Political Advocacy

Strategic and community engagement, government relations, and advocacy to shape policy outcomes and build strong community and sector partnerships.

Project Management

End-to-end project support from planning and stakeholder alignment, to execution, funding readiness, and evaluation.

ICT & Digital Strategy

Fit-for-purpose ICT planning, digital transformation support, systems optimisation, cyber security, cloud transitions, and workforce capability development.

Memberships

Local Buy Prequalified Supplier (QLD/NT/TAS)

- LB308 - IT Support
- LB309 - Business Management and Consulting Services
- LB311 - Legal Services

Registered Lobbyist (QLD/AUS)



Our team



Dr Chris McLaughlin – Practice Director and Lawyer

Academic and senior executive, Chris leads culturev8, guiding service providers through complexity and change, with a focus on strategy, governance, and impactful leadership



Melanie McLaughlin – Director and Practice Support

Qualified teacher and practice director, Mel ensures seamless administration and quality outcomes, supporting operations and delivering lasting value for clients and communities.



Dr Gwynn MacCarrick – Senior Legal Services Lead

International criminal lawyer and academic with expertise in Indigenous, humanitarian, and social justice law. Provides strategic legal solutions for complex challenges and projects.



Katherine Wiggins – Senior Governance and Engagement Lead

Experienced in policy, governance, and engagement across government and social sectors, with expertise in deep listening and First Nations engagement, delivering tailored solutions that strengthen organisations.



Julia Mauro – Senior Lawyer

Experienced government lawyer and accredited mediator with expertise in local government, compliance and community legal issues. Delivers practical legal solutions for complex statutory and governance challenges.



Rob Dwyer – Senior Risk Management Specialist

ICT specialist with over 30 years' experience, Rob focuses on strategy, infrastructure optimisation, and cyber security, delivering robust project management solutions for clients.



Oliver Gilkerson – Special Counsel

With over 30 years' experience, Oliver is a leading Queensland lawyer in Indigenous land tenure and infrastructure law, providing strategic advice to advance community interests.



Sarah Rizvi – Engagement, Planning and Environment Specialist

Urban and regional planner with Queensland experience, Sarah specialises in strategy, communications, and project delivery, focusing on meaningful engagement and practical community outcomes.



Dr Alan Clough – Lawyer

Professorial Research Fellow at JCU and practising solicitor, Alan is nationally recognised for legal-policy integration, public health, and reform, supporting community advancement through research and leadership.



Leigh Harris – Creative Director, Ingeous Studios

Digital innovator with over 25 years' experience, Leigh specialises in inclusive design and technology, creating award-winning digital solutions for regional and remote communities.

Our Commitment to Social Responsibility and Innovation

We are different because as well as providing exceptional professional service, we care about the communities we live and work in, and we've made important business decisions to back this up.

- 1. We are paperless** - We have seen enough destruction of our forestry, so we embrace cutting-edge technology to seamlessly and securely offer our services to you, anywhere, anytime.
- 2. We communicate smarter** - We reduce our carbon footprint by investing in cutting-edge technology to communicate smarter and more often with you, utilising video conferencing and cloud-based applications. Pay for expertise, not frequent flyer points.
- 3. We work where we are** - We don't pay for boardrooms, so you don't have to! We are entirely decentralised and mobile, working wherever we are, with no commuting to and from work, significantly reducing our carbon footprint. If you need office space, just leave it to us. We have secured cracking deals on premium 3rd party office space by the hour, to ensure you only pay for what you need.
- 4. We champion local and Indigenous opportunity** - We create and promote local and Indigenous opportunity, both economic and cultural.

Our valued clients

