

STATE OF THE CHILDREN 2016

Children and young people in the Cairns
southern corridor – a pathway forward



Prepared by Working Visions Australasia on behalf of Mission
Australia and the Communities for Children Working Group

Authors:
Dr Scott R Davis
Kristy Hill
Tracey Wilson



This report was commissioned by Mission Australia as Facilitating Partner for Communities for Children Cairns South and Yarrabah. The findings and recommendations contained within this document are based on the public data made available by partners to the Communities for Children Working Group.

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- ▼ Department of Education and Training, Queensland
- ▼ Queensland Treasury
- ▼ Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service
- ▼ Queensland Department of Health
- ▼ Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
- ▼ North Queensland Primary Health Network
- ▼ Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland
- ▼ Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, Queensland
- ▼ Queensland Police Service
- ▼ Department of Youth Justice, Queensland
- ▼ Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland
- ▼ Youth Empowered Towards Independence

While all care has been taken to represent the data used in this report accurately, no guarantees can be given about reliability. Caution should be used when drawing conclusions from the data and special consideration given to the size of the communities of interest. This report is for information purposes only. Further discussion of the datasets is contained in Appendix 1.

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Correspondence should be directed to:

Sarah Brown – Program Manager | Communities for Children & Circles of Care

Mission Australia – Cairns

Email: BrownSa@missionaustralia.com.au



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FORWARD FROM THE CFC COMMITTEE CHAIR

The well-being of our communities depends upon the provision of help to families from a variety of sources – government, business and numerous organisations with benevolent intentions. The efforts of all of these, though well intentioned, do not necessarily have the synergistic effect hoped for.

The effectiveness of the effort of any organisation in a social setting is difficult, but not impossible, to measure. But evidence based measurement of impacts of specific services to a community is essential to inform the providers and to ensure their support continues and is directed towards the most positive outcomes. Measuring also ensures that the recipients of the benefits are encouraged by the progress thereby achieved.

The starting point for any measurement is the baseline against which progress can be identified. This report, by Working Visions Australasia, establishes a baseline for work to be carried out under the auspices of Communities for Children Cairns South and Yarrabah.

The report also identifies the difficulties and the limitations which are inherent in collecting and matching information from official sources and relating that information to less formal sources.

This work is both necessary and valuable in the long-term task of eliminating disadvantage in the Cairns South corridor and in Yarrabah. I commend Working Visions Australasia for their efforts in undertaking this project.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Stanley Jones'.

The Hon Stanley Jones AO QC

**Committee member Communities for Children Cairns South
and Yarrabah**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report aims to provide a snapshot in time of the state of children and young people, aged between 0 and 19, living in the Cairns South and Yarrabah regions.

The report is the first output in a wider project driven by the Australian-government-funded program, Communities for Children (CfC) Cairns South and Yarrabah. Communities for Children supports families to provide safe, stable environments for children, leading to improved health and wellbeing and strong child-friendly communities. Mission Australia is the Facilitating Partner for CfC. The report was put together by consultant, Working Visions Australasia, and has been led by Dr Scott Davis. This project was guided by the CfC Cairns South and Yarrabah Steering committee; Mission Australia's (Cairns Region) CfC Program Manager Sarah Brown; and a number of community stakeholders and education, health and social service providers that work with children in the Southern Corridor of Cairns. I would like to acknowledge the CfC Cairns South and Yarrabah steering committee for their ongoing support and constructive feedback during development of the report.

The information contained in this baseline report is ordered into five domains.

- ▼ Developing well by age 6
- ▼ Safe and secure
- ▼ Happy and healthy
- ▼ Engaged, learning and achieving
- ▼ Active citizens

Within each domain, several indicators, drawn from data sources such as National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) data and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011 Census data, have been used to present a picture of life for children in the Southern corridor of Cairns and Yarrabah. The intent of the report itself was to create a 'base line' resource that could be used as a reference point and highlight gaps in the available data.

A number of communities performed above or on par with state and national measures. Therefore, improvements into the future might be made by leveraging off this capability. Gaps in the available data were noted in areas such as alcohol and substance misuse and active participation of children in their communities.

Data collection and interpretation in this project was challenging because suburb-specific level data was needed rather than Local Government Area (LGA) level data, which is more readily available and has been used in similar previous reports. Another confounding issue was that, despite its similarity in size to surrounding suburbs, the Aboriginal community of Yarrabah is as an LGA in its own right.

Recommendations out of this report include the following:

- ▼ Formalise a data sharing agreement between CFC partners and consider completing a National Ethics Application Form (NEAF) application for the ongoing project.
- ▼ Continue to work with CfC partners to identify local indicators and measures to be used in future reports.
- ▼ Selection of indicators must consider the frequency of data collection and the range of measures (which should include both process and impact measures) relating to the collective impact program logic.
- ▼ Partner a research institute or institution to work alongside the CFC committee to further research outcomes and improve data collection and reliability.

The next stage of the CFC project will utilise a collective impact approach to bring people together in a structured way to achieve social change.

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth, State and Territory governments share a vision that, by 2020, all children will be offered the best start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation. In making this vision a reality, there have been significant efforts at a local level to empower communities through investment in people and services for families and children.

Cairns is a large and diverse regional community of Far North Queensland (FNQ) with an estimated population of more than 160,000 people. It is predicted the Cairns population will increase by an annual average of 1.9% per year over the next 25 years with the population expected to reach 247,846 by 30 June 2036 (QGSO 2016).

The regions of interest for this report are Cairns South and Yarrabah (See figure 1). Within this region there are ten suburbs of interest: Bayview Heights; Earlville; Bentley Park; Edmonton; Forest Gardens; Gordonvale; Mt Sheridan; White Rock; Woree; and Yarrabah, which is similar in size to the surrounding suburbs and a Local Government Area (LGA) in its own right. Yarrabah is an Aboriginal community and 99.5% of the children in Yarrabah are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. Most of the Southern Corridor suburbs have a higher proportion of Indigenous residents than that of the Cairns LGA generally. More than a quarter of children in White Rock and Woree and more than a fifth of children in Edmonton and Gordonvale identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

These Southern Corridor suburbs have emerged in recent years as areas of significant growth, partly because there is limited capacity for expansion within the Cairns LGA to the north and west. The predicted population growth rate for the Gordonvale and White Rock areas, for example, is 6.6% and 3% respectively until 2036, which is significantly higher than the overall growth predicted for the Cairns LGA. It is worth noting that a number of new suburbs are also currently planned within the Southern Corridor region.

The Australian Government-funded organisation, Communities for Children (CfC) Cairns South & Yarrabah, is working in Cairns's Southern Corridor to improve the health and wellbeing of families and the development of young children. The group pays special attention to supporting parents and families to care for, educate and engage with their children to create strong child-friendly communities.

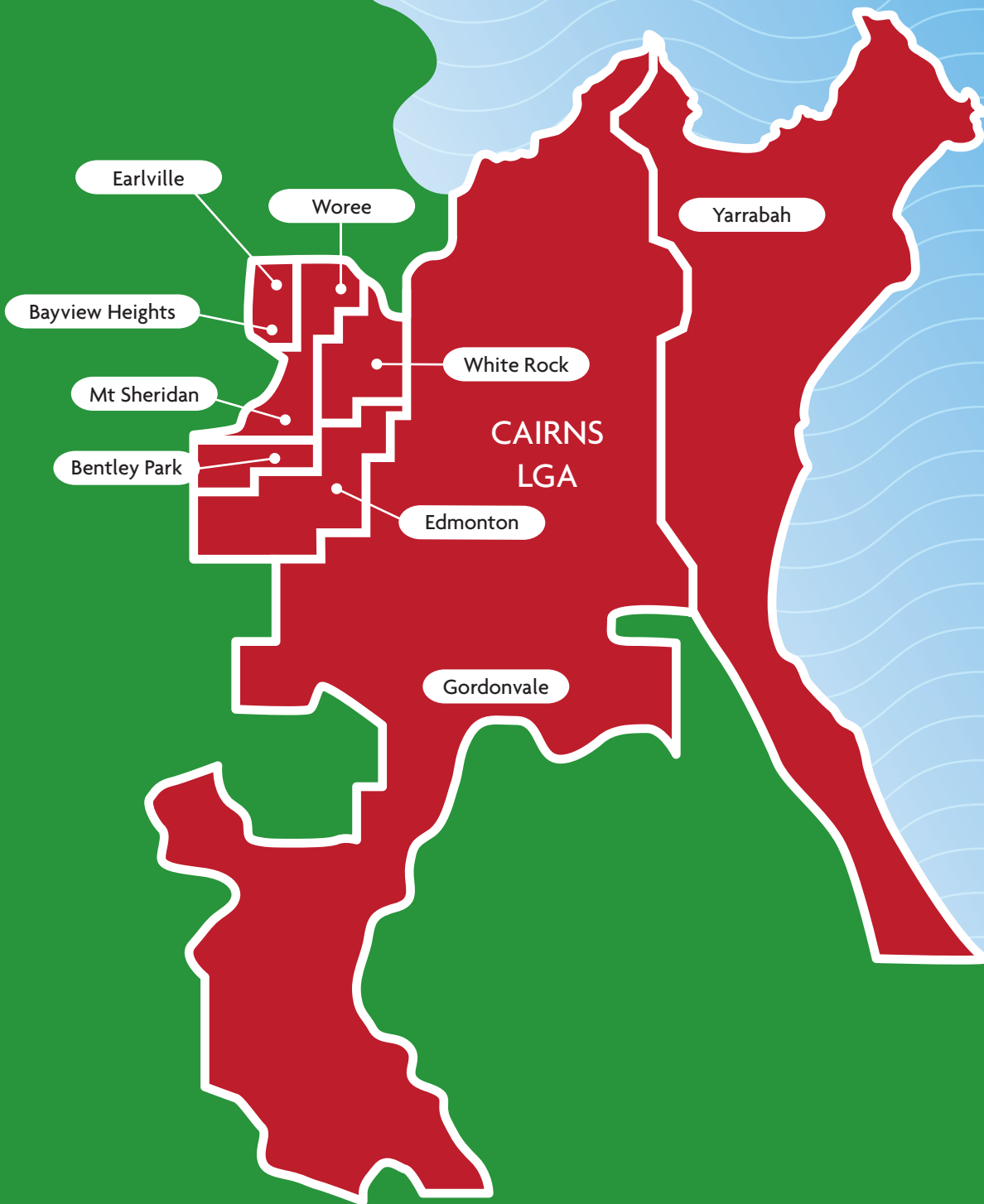
The purpose this State of the Children report is to establish a baseline of data and information and to consider and create better ways to identify and monitor areas of change, growth, positivity and need.

The collective impact project, of which this baseline report is the first stage, is driven by the CfC. This project uses a research-based approach, and has enabled service providers from all levels of the community, business and government to work together to share strategies for change and yield benefits for disadvantaged families and children.



MAP OF THE PROJECT REGION

Figure 1



PROJECT SCOPE AND METHODS

Initial scoping in this project focused on three main areas: the activities of the various community groups and organisations in the Southern Corridor; consideration of the information available in existing large datasets; and investigation of the possibility and feasibility of accessing smaller organisation-specific datasets.

Agreement on the parameters and scope of the project was reached with Mission Australia, Communities for Children and Working Vision Australasia. Definitions were agreed upon through a workshop process with key stakeholders early in the project. For the purpose of this report children are defined as 0- 19 years, unless otherwise stated. (A point of note is that the ABS defines children as 0-15 years and having no dependent children of their own, and youth as 15-19 years. Both datasets were accessed in the production of this report). The next set of parameters to define was the exact geographic footprint which was to be used in this report.

A difficulty for the project team was that detailed suburb-level data was more challenging to obtain than, say, local government area (LGA) level data. In order to access this level of data, Statistical Level 2 (SA2) data was sought. SA2 is a classification

within the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Wherever possible SA2s are based on officially-gazetted State suburbs and localities though, at times, they define functional zones of social and economic links in rural areas. Geography is also taken into account in SA2 design. There were eight SA2 areas of interest in this project (shown below in table 1), which took in 10 suburbs.

DATA SOURCES

Due to the challenge of accessing data at a SA2 level the project team was obliged to rely heavily on four comprehensive data sources. These include:

- ▼ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data from 2011
- ▼ The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) 2015 data
- ▼ The 2015 NAPLAN results from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAR)
- ▼ Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) data

This publicly-available data was used in conjunction with data which the partners on the CFC committee made available to the research team.

Table 1: SA2 areas

SA2 NAME	SA2 CODE	SUBURBS OF INTEREST IN SA2
BENTLEY PARK	SA2/306021144	Bentley Park
EARLVILLE - BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	SA2/306021146	Bayview Heights; Earlville
EDMONTON	SA2/306021147	Edmonton
GORDONVALE – TRINITY	SA2/306021148	Gordonvale
MT SHERIDAN	SA2/306021153	Mt Sheridan, Forest Gardens
WHITE ROCK	SA2/306021155	White Rock
WOREE	SA2/306021157	Woree
YARRABAH	SA2/306031163	Yarrabah

¹ <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2901.0Chapter25702011>

LIMITATIONS

Difficulties and limitations are associated with the use of numerous data sources. Sourcing accurate and reliable suburb-level data, as indicated earlier, was also challenging. Data was considered reliable if it came from a reputable statistical agency, such as the ABS. Since most source data was not available for the exact suburb boundaries, the SA2 areas were used to extract relevant statistics. Two exceptions were made to this rule where it was deemed important to have some form of baseline. In both cases the data used was for the Cairns Hospital and Health Service region. Each dataset, in turn, has its own limitations and caveats around use and interpretation of the figures and statistics. For convenience and completeness, a summary of each dataset and a statement about the respective limitations is provided in Appendix 1.

FRAMEWORK

The second stage of the process was to review the literature for the most appropriate framework to use in examining key factors that influence child and youth wellbeing. The indicators used in this document were developed in line with one of the most recognised frameworks within which a child's wellbeing can be considered: Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Model of Child Development (Bronfenbrenner 1979). This approach draws upon similar reports, and the research team would like to acknowledge the influence of Dr Geoff Woolcock in his role

as the Inaugural Queensland convener for the Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth (ARACY) from 2013 to 2014.

This ecological model posits that the factors and inter-relationships that influence a person's development and trajectory into the future go well beyond the 'nature/nurture' debate. Bronfenbrenner's model is usually illustrated with concentric circles which put the child at the centre. Factors that influence the child include close relationships with parents; informal networks of friends and neighbours; community networks; the media; and broader social, economic, environmental, political and historical influences.

This model guided the identification of the five domains, detailed below, and a series of indicators which would form the parameters of this report. A one-day workshop was conducted with key organisations and stakeholders, as identified by Mission Australia. Attendees came from a range of agencies that provide services into identified communities or had an expressed interest in and knowledge about the children and youth issues. The project was introduced and feedback sought about definition of the domains and possible indicators to be used within the report. Thirty-three people attended the workshop (See Table 2). Following this workshop, the research team worked with the CfC Cairns South and Yarrabah Steering Committee in validating the definitions of the domains and determining the indicators.

Table 2

SECTOR REPRESENTATION AT WORKSHOP		TOTAL 33	
3	Education	3	Women and children services
3	Health	3	Police and youth justice
7	Social services	3	Youth
4	Pre- schools	1	Community Development
4	Indigenous	1	Other

DOMAINS

A review of the research literature conducted both in Australia and overseas around child wellbeing guided the development of the final five domains. These domains are summarised below:

DOMAIN 1 | DEVELOPING WELL BY AGE 6

This domain is about child development during the early years (from maternal health through to the first year of school). Early childhood is considered to be the most important phase in life. Development during these early years largely determines the quality of health, wellbeing, learning and behaviour across the life span. It is a period of great opportunity, but also of great vulnerability to negative influences (WHO 2016).

DOMAIN 2 | SAFE AND SECURE

This domain looks at whether children and young people are safe in their own homes. In this domain the following issues were considered: family/domestic violence; financial security of families; and whether children were victims of crime (child abuse and neglect); or homelessness. Safe environments and communities not only protect children from harm but also promote children's wellbeing, allowing them to exercise their independence by confidently making decisions and taking on new challenges (DEECD, 2013).

DOMAIN 3 | HAPPY AND HEALTHY

An individual's health and wellbeing results from a complex interplay between biological, lifestyle, socioeconomic, societal and environmental factors, many of which can be modified to some extent. This domain considers physical health (e.g. healthy eating, healthy weight, physical activity, sun protection and disability) as well as social and emotional wellbeing.

DOMAIN 4 | ENGAGED, LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

This domain considers whether children are getting the practical support, encouragement and opportunity to learn and to participate in formal and informal education experiences. It considers whether children are acquiring the skills they will need to support a continual process of lifelong learning.

DOMAIN 5 | ACTIVE CITIZENS

This domain considers whether children are active citizens in their communities. It describes access to technology for social connections, involvement with peers and the community, participation in community and sporting events, being heard, and being involved in decision-making processes that affect them.

INDICATORS

Each domain contains between three and 20 indicators. Decisions about inclusion of indicators was subject to an additional level of scrutiny and consideration which took into account the following:

- ▼ Availability of reliable population data
- ▼ Indicators needed to be reflective of local and national policy
- ▼ Availability of data over time. Data collection at regular intervals over time enables communities to monitor change in the long term
- ▼ Availability of comparative data for the Cairns LGA, Queensland and Australia
- ▼ The meaningfulness of the indicator to stakeholders

A complete list of the indicators is provided in Appendix 2.

FINDINGS

IN ORDER TO DRAW OUT THE KEY FINDINGS FROM THIS BASELINE REPORT, SUBURB DATA HAS BEEN COLOUR CODED ACCORDING TO WHETHER IT IS:

NOT PERFORMING WELL AGAINST THE COMPARATOR
THE CAIRNS LGA/CAIRNS AEDC COMMUNITY AVERAGE

ON PAR OR PERFORMING WELL AGAINST THE COMPARATOR
THE CAIRNS LGA/CAIRNS AEDC COMMUNITY AVERAGE

The comparator is determined according to the lowest statistical level available.

- Cairns LGA/ Cairns AEDC, or
- State, or
- National

DEVELOPING WELL BY AGE 6

In examining the domain 'developing well by age 6' there is value in undertaking further critical analysis in areas which appear to be going against the local trend. Looking at the deviances will allow researchers to consider the root causes of those areas and communities in which challenges and successes are evident. Trinity – Gordonvale, Woree, Edmonton and Yarrabah consistently performed under the state and national averages on a range of AEDC indicators. In a number of specific AEDC indicators, however, Yarrabah and other communities performed significantly better than the local averages. This suggests that further investigation is needed to identify the factors that are contributing to these outcomes, and if possible, their strategies replicated elsewhere to move forward. It is worth noting that, in relation to the AEDC social competency and emotional maturity domains, Yarrabah is performing well.

Interestingly, with respect to the indicator on low birthweights, many of the Southern Corridor communities with a high Indigenous population are doing better than the Cairns LGA, and the state. This fact might warrant further analysis. Both Yarrabah and Edmonton however, have significantly higher rates of both low birth weights and smoking during pregnancy than the surrounding suburbs.

SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES

Overall, there are higher rates of unemployment among parents within the Southern Corridor suburbs, which would create financial challenges for families with

children. Combined with similarly higher rates of homelessness within a number of communities, there remains significant challenges for the Southern Corridor in terms of creating safe and secure communities for children. The rate of young people aged 0-24 who are homeless as a proportion of the overall homeless population is high, which suggest further efforts are required to explore housing stability for young people across the Southern Corridor suburbs.

Offences against people (of all ages) in the Southern Corridor is slightly below the Cairns LGA region (with the exception of Yarrabah and Woree, which is much higher). This suggests that investment in programs to reduce offences against people is required in specific communities. Of most concern in the domain 'safe and secure' is the significant and consistently high rates of substantiated child abuse across the Southern Corridor.

HAPPY AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

In examining the domain 'happy and healthy', the project team found it challenging to access useful data. Despite this data gap there was a sense expressed by CfC partners that significant investment had occurred in this area in recent years and was yielding results in terms of building healthy and happy communities. Of the few indicators that could be obtained to measure 'health'; (healthy eating, obesity, physical activity and sun protective behavior) data was only available at the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service

(CHHHS) district level. The data at this level revealed that the CHHHS district was comparable, if not slightly better off than the state in these measures. The CHHHS region covers an area of 141,000 square kilometers ranging from Cairns to Tully in the south, Cow Bay in the north and Croydon in the west and has an estimated population of 283,197. In comparison the project region covers only 544.4 square kilometers, and has an estimated population of 58,511, so it is difficult to make any assertions from this overall CHHHS data about the health of specific communities within the Southern Corridor.

As part of the baseline data, the Cairns HHS agreed to provide data coded according to 'cause of presentation through the child and youth mental health services' for the period of the 2014/15 financial year. These occasions of service include repeat presentation. By examining the graphs provided it can be seen that for the 2014/15 presentations, around 25% were coded as being from the suburbs included within this project. Anonymity would have been compromised by presenting suburb-level data because of the small sample size.

ENGAGED, LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

In examining the domain 'engaged, learning and achieving' the project team relied heavily on NAPLAN data, which is based on schools within each suburb, as opposed to the home suburb of the children themselves. Other issues that affect interpretation of this data include recent changes that have resulted in Year 7 being included in high school; the number of suburbs that do not have a school within their footprint; and the social and demographic context from which the student are drawn. For example, two schools within a few kilometers of one another will have very different demographic spreads if one school is private and the other is public, as is the case in White Rock.

Of particular interest to the project team has been the indicator around the percentage of children who experienced an education program in preschool, kindergarten or day care before going to school. In particular, it

is worth noting that 94.2% of the students in Yarrabah are exposed to an early childhood education program, which compares very favourably to the Cairns LGA (81.7%). Future research might investigate the flow-on effect of this high participation to determine whether this investment in early childhood programs in Yarrabah leads to longer term benefits for children. Communities with low participation in early childhood education included Woree and Edmonton.

While the NAPLAN data provided strong evidence on the metrics related to numeracy and literacy, a key factor worth examining is participation rates at school (both primary and secondary schools). This report identified issues of poor school attendance in Gordonvale, Yarrabah and Woree.

Another indicator worth examining further in this domain is young people's (15-19 years) participation in study or work, otherwise called 'learning and earning activities'. This indicator revealed that the Southern Corridor suburbs (with the exception of Bentley Park and Mount Sheridan) were below or significantly below the state and national average.

ACTIVE CITIZENS

In examining the domain 'active citizens', the project team struggled to identify indicators that would provide an accurate measure relating to citizenship and participation. Data was sought from a range of agencies including the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Australian Electoral Commission, however, was not able to be obtained. This is an area where future investment is required to ensure that regional data sets and measures can be developed to provide an adequate baseline and support the collective impact processes.

With respect to the two indicators which were used as proxy measures for this domain, (participation in volunteer work and access to the internet) both should be used cautiously as the data takes in all ages and is self-reported. With particular reference to access to the internet at home, the recent advances in mobile technology and the currency of the data make any interpretation problematic.

BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS / EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE / TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE	YARRABAH
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ESTIMATES RESIDENT POPULATION 0-24 YEARS AS OF THE 30TH OF JUNE 2015

54,473	3680	2711	4632	3187	3125	1933	1975	1459
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NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-24 FORECAST FOR 2026

63,598	3,948	2,492	5,622	7,293	3,149	1,945	2,532	1,480
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NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-24 FORECAST FOR 2036

72,451	4,200	2,356	6,460	12,369	3,127	2,112	3,235	1,552
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ESTIMATES RESIDENT POPULATION ALL AGES AS OF THE 30TH OF JUNE 2015

160,285	8,437	8,676	11,086	8,847	8,692	4,873	5,214	2,686
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ESTIMATES RESIDENT GROWTH POPULATION (ALL AGES) AS OF THE 30TH OF JUNE 2036

227,542	10,150	8,904	17,004	34,746	9,404	6,833	9,847	3,390
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ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (ALL AGES) OVER THE PERIOD 2011 - 2036

1.9%	0.8%	0.0%	1.8%	6.6%	1.4%	3.0%	1.2%	1.5%
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YOUNG PEOPLE (0-24) AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION FORECAST FOR 2026

32.8%	42.3%	28.3%	39.3%	36.8%	34.6%	32.6%	34.1%	48.8%
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CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS / EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE / TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE	YARRABAH
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YOUNG PEOPLE (0-24) AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION FORECAST FOR 2036

31.8%	41.4%	26.5%	38.0%	35.6%	33.3%	30.9%	32.9%	45.8%
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NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 0-14 IN COUPLE FAMILIES 2011

15,350	986	917	1,185	966	1,016	439	400	195
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PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 0-14 IN COUPLE FAMILIES 2011

40.9%	51.8%	41.8%	45.5%	44.9%	45.2%	38.4%	35.3%	37.2%
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NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 0-14 IN SOLE PARENT FAMILIES 2011

7,286	372	364	575	379	387	282	336	237
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PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 0-14 IN SOLE PARENT FAMILIES 2011

19.4%	19.5%	16.6%	22.1%	17.6%	17.2%	24.7%	29.2%	45.2%
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NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AGED 0-24 YEARS IN 2011

7621	556	319	881	558	348	494	453	1306
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INDIGENOUS YOUNG PEOPLE AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL PEOPLE AGED 0-24 YEARS IN 2011

16.4%	18%	13.6%	22.5%	20.4%	12.2%	31%	28.3%	99.5%
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SEIFA SCORES % POPULATION BY INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE 1ST QUINTILE

27.6%	26.5%	31.1%	21.6%	30.5%	8.6%	45.9%	85.5%	100.0%
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DOMAIN 1 | DEVELOPING WELL BY AGE 6

This domain illustrates child development during the early years (from maternal health through to the first year of school). The early years of a child's life have a profound impact on their future health. These years determine the quality of health, wellbeing, learning and behaviour across the life span. It is a period of great opportunity, but also of great vulnerability to negative influences (WHO 2016, Sanson 2004). Creating an optimal environment for early childhood development lays the foundation for improving education, employment and health outcomes beyond school (DEEWR 2009).

A key data source for this domain is the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), which is a nationwide data collection of early childhood development at the time children commence their first year of full-time school. The AEDC can indicate what is working well and what needs to be improved or developed to support children and their families by providing evidence to support health, education and community policy and planning.

Data for this domain have also been sourced from the Queensland Government Department of Health, and Cairns Public Health Unit, Health Surveillance Unit.

INDICATORS

▼ LONE PARENTS YOUNGER THAN 25

- Percentage of families who are lone parents aged under 25 years

▼ TEENAGE BIRTH RATES

- Annual average percentage of births to teenage mothers (aged 15-19 years) over the period 2010-2014
- Indigenous teenage birth rate: annual average percentage of births to teenage mothers (aged 15-19 years) over the period 2010-2014

▼ SMOKING RATES DURING PREGNANCY

- Smoking during pregnancy: percentage of mothers smoking during pregnancy (average for the period 2010-2014)
- Smoking during pregnancy: percentage of indigenous mothers smoking during pregnancy (average for the period 2010-2014)

▼ LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

- Percentage of babies exhibiting low birth weight
- Percentage of Indigenous babies exhibiting low birth weight

▼ IMMUNISATIONS

- Percentage of children fully immunised. (HHS)

DOMAIN 1 | DEVELOPING WELL BY AGE 6

▼ DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE

- Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census.
- Percentage of children who are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (SA2)

▼ PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- AEDC physical health and wellbeing domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at-risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- AEDC physical health and wellbeing domain: percentage of children not on track for this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally vulnerable (i.e. below the 10th percentile)

▼ SOCIAL COMPETENCE

- AEDC social competence domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)

▼ EMOTIONAL MATURITY

- AEDC emotional maturity domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at-risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- AEDC emotional maturity domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally vulnerable (i.e. below the 10th percentile)

▼ LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE SKILLS

- AEDC language and cognitive skills domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at-risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- AEDC language and cognitive skills domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally vulnerable (i.e. below the 10th percentile)

▼ COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- AEDC communication skills and general knowledge domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at-risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- AEDC communication skills and general knowledge domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally vulnerable (i.e. below the 10th percentile)

INDICATOR:

LONE PARENTS YOUNGER THAN 25

PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WHO ARE LONE PARENTS AGED UNDER 25 YEARS

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
0.2%	1.2%	2.2%	0.9%	2.0%	0.8%	0.8%	2.5%	3.5%	9.1%



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE
2011 ABS Census Data

COMMENTARY

Research shows that children from single parent families are more likely to perform at or below the National Minimum Standard in NAPLAN (80%) (DEECD 2013).

The Cairns LGA had a significantly higher rate (1.2%) of families who were single parent and under the age of 25 years than the state measure of 0.2% in 2011. In the Southern Corridor, the percentage of families who were single parents under the age of 25 year was highest in Yarrabah and Woree. While there is a degree of variability in rates within the Southern Corridor when compared with the Cairns LGA, the rates in the Southern Corridor are consistently higher than the state.



INDICATOR:

TEENAGE BIRTH RATES

ANNUAL AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS
(AGED 15-19 YEARS) OVER THE PERIOD 2010-2014

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville -Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
4.9%	5.7%	6%	6%	8%	6.6%	3.1%	9.2%	10.0%	21.5%

INDICATOR:

INDIGENOUS TEENAGE BIRTH RATES

ANNUAL AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS
(AGED 15-19 YEARS) OVER THE PERIOD 2010-2014

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville -Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
18.1%	15.9%	13.5%	12.6%	20.9%	15.4%	10.4%	19.1%	13.1%	21.8%



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE

Perinatal Data Collection, Department of Health, QLD

COMMENTARY

Teenage motherhood poses significant long-term risks for both mother and child, including a higher likelihood of poorer health, educational and economic outcomes. One in 25 live births in Australia in 2009 were to teenage mothers. Babies born to teenage mothers have an increased risk of pre-term birth, low birthweight and associated complications (AIHW, 2016). Teenage mothers are more likely to be lone parents; live in areas of disadvantage; smoke; and have lower levels of education. The birth rate among Indigenous teenagers was more than five times the non-Indigenous rate (72 compared with 14 per 1,000 females aged 15–19). The rate among all teenagers increased with geographical remoteness, rising from 12

per 1,000 in major cities to 57 per 1000 in remote and very remote areas. (AIHW 2016)

Based on data from the period 2010 -2014, prepared by the Statistical Reporting & Coordination, Statistical Services Branch, Department of Health, teenage birth rates from the Cairns LGA are higher than for the State. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs, Bentley Park, Earlville-Bayview Heights and Gordonvale are comparable with the Cairns LGA, with rates for Mount Sheridan being lower than the Cairns LGA, and the remaining suburbs, ranging from 8-10% with the outlier being Yarrabah, which has a high indigenous population, but remains consistent with the national patterns around remoteness and indigenous identification.

INDICATOR:

SMOKING RATES DURING PREGNANCY

PERCENTAGE OF MOTHERS SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY
(AVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2014)

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville -Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
15.2%	19.8%	19.3%	17.2%	26.1%	20.8%	16.0%	26.9%	28.1%	62.8%

INDICATOR:

INDIGENOUS SMOKING RATES DURING PREGNANCY

PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENOUS MOTHERS SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY
(AVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2014)

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville -Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
48.6%	47.5%	41.2%	48.2%	49.3%	52.2%	35.5%	47.3%	45.3%	63.7%



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE

Perinatal Data Collection, Department of Health, QLD

COMMENTARY

Smoking during pregnancy is a significant risk factor for the mother and her unborn baby. It increases the risk of a range of conditions, including low birthweight, pre-term birth, placental complications and perinatal mortality. The effects of smoking during pregnancy persist into infancy and childhood. Children whose mothers smoked while they were pregnant have been found to be at higher risk of sudden infant death syndrome, childhood cancers, high blood pressure, asthma, lowered cognitive development and other serious problems. (AIHW 2016)

Smoking during pregnancy rates for the Cairns LGA are higher than for the State,

with rates for Indigenous women in the Cairns LGA who smoke during pregnancy being comparable with the State's data related to Indigenous smoking rates. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs, Bentley Park, Earlville –Bayview Heights, and Mount Sheridan are comparable but slight lower than with the Cairns LGA. The suburbs of Edmonton, White Rock and Woree are significantly higher than the Cairns LGA and the State. Based on the Indigenous smoking during pregnancy rates for the period 2010-2015, the South Corridor suburbs are comparable with the State for this measure with the exception of Yarrabah.

INDICATOR:

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

PERCENTAGE OF BABIES EXHIBITING LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville -Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
6.9%	7.6%	6.9%	5.8%	7.8%	7.7%	7.0%	6.8%	8%	14.8%

INDICATOR:

INDIGENOUS LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENOUS BABIES EXHIBITING LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville -Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
11.6%	11.8%	8.4%	8.0%	13.2%	9.9%	7.8%	5.5%	8.8%	14.5%



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE

Perinatal Data Collection, Department of Health, QLD

COMMENTARY

Babies who are born with low birthweight are at greater risk of poor health, disability and death than other babies. A birthweight below 2,500 grams is considered low and is a known risk factor for neurological and physical disabilities, with the risk of adverse outcomes increasing with decreasing birth weight (AIHW 2016)

Low birth weight measures for the Southern Corridor population (including Indigenous babies) are comparable with the Cairns LGA and the State benchmark. The percentage of Indigenous babies with low birthweight is generally lower when compared to Cairns LGA and the State, with the exceptions being Yarrabah and Edmonton.

INDICATOR:

IMMUNISATIONS

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN FULLY IMMUNISED. (CHHHS)

Table 3: Immunisation coverage for 12 months ending September 2015

INDICATORS	ALL CHILDREN	NON INDIGENOUS CHILDREN	INDIGENOUS CHILDREN	STATE RATE - ALL CHILDREN	TARGET
Fully vaccinated at 1 year (%)	91.11	92.65	85.90	91.96	95.00
Fully vaccinated at 2 years (%)	89.79	90.65	87.22	89.60	95.00
Fully vaccinated at 5 years (%)	93.10	92.56	95.01	92.07	95.00



TARGET DIRECTION
Increase

SOURCE

Australian Childhood Immunisation Register

*Notes about the use of this data source are contained in Appendix 1.

DATA GAP

COMMENTARY

Data on immunisation by SA2 was not available to the research team at the SA2 or SA1 level, and has been presented for the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health (CHHHS) region. CHHHS immunisation rates are comparable with the rest of Queensland, however, the target of 95% at years one and three have not been achieved.



INDICATOR:

DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE ON ONE OR MORE DOMAINS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity*	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
22%	26.1%	25%	22.5%	17.3%	15.7%	30.2%	42.2%	42.2%	30.2%	33.3%	23.5%



TARGET DIRECTION

Decrease

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

Children are considered developmentally 'vulnerable' if they score below the 10th percentile (in the lowest 10%) of the national population in the 2015 AEDC data collection (AEDC, 2015). In 2015 the proportion of children who were developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains with the Cairns AEDC Community was comparable with Queensland data, and is higher than the national figures. Within the Southern Corridor, Bentley Park, Bayview Heights, Earlville and Yarrabah are either lower or comparable to the state benchmark. Suburbs that are higher than the state benchmark are Woree, Gordonvale, White Rock and Edmonton.



INDICATOR:

DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE ON TWO OR MORE DOMAINS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS. (SA2)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity*	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
11.1%	14%	14.4%	12.4%	3.8%	9.8%	18.3%	29.4%	11%	15.6%	18.5%	13.7%



TARGET DIRECTION

Decrease

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

In 2015 the percentage of children in the Cairns AEDC Community region (14.4%) who were developmentally vulnerable on two measures was higher than the national measure (11.1%), and comparable with the state (14%). Within the Southern Corridor suburbs there was a high degree of variability with Bayview Heights being a stand-out at 3.8% - significantly less than the measures of the other suburbs. Gordonvale, Woree and Edmonton were significantly higher than the Cairns AEDC Community. A higher percentage of vulnerable children in these areas suggests there should be a focus on addressing developmental vulnerabilities within these communities.



INDICATOR:

PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AEDC PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING DOMAIN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY AT-RISK* (I.E. BETWEEN THE 10TH AND 25TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
13%	14.6%	13.4%	11.5%	12.4%	7.8%	17%	26.6%	13.1%	17.7%	16%	17.6%

INDICATOR:

PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AEDC PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING DOMAIN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK FOR THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE* (I.E. BELOW THE 10TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
9.7%	12.4%	11.6%	8.3%	7.7%	11.6%	16.6%	20.2%	8.3%	9.4%	11.1%	13.7%



TARGET DIRECTION

Reduction

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

The AEDC Physical Health and Wellbeing domain measures children's physical readiness for the first day of school, physical independence and gross and fine motor skills (AEDC 2016)

In 2015, the proportion of children and young people in the Cairns AEDC Community whose physical health and wellbeing were considered to be at-risk or vulnerable was comparable to the State and National levels. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs Gordonvale had the highest percentage of at-risk or vulnerable children. Within the other suburbs of the Southern Corridor there was significant variation in the percentage of young people who were considered at risk.

INDICATOR:

SOCIAL COMPETENCE

AEDC SOCIAL COMPETENCE DOMAIN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY AT-RISK* (I.E. BETWEEN THE 10TH AND 25TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
15%	16.4%	16.9%	17.3%	19.5%	5.9%	17%	19.3%	21.4%	14.6%	19.8%	13.7%

INDICATOR:

SOCIAL COMPETENCE

AEDC SOCIAL COMPETENCE DOMAIN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE* (I.E. BELOW THE 10TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
9.9%	12.4%	12.4%	11.8%	5.8%	12.4%	16.2%	24.8%	9%	15.6%	13.6%	5.9%



TARGET DIRECTION

Reduction

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

The social competence domain measures children's overall social competence, responsibility and respect, approaches to learning and readiness to explore new things (AEDC 2016)

In 2015, the percentage of young people within the Cairns AEDC Community who were at risk or vulnerable was comparable with Queensland overall and higher than the National level. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs, Bayview Heights (5.8%) was significantly below the state benchmark on vulnerability, and Earlville (5.9%) was significantly below the average on the measure of developmental risk. Yarrabah was doing well on this both of these indicators, while Gordonvale was consistently higher than State and National measures, indicating levels of social competence vulnerability and risk in children that warrants attention.

INDICATOR:

EMOTIONAL MATURITY

AEDC EMOTIONAL MATURITY DOMAIN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY AT-RISK* (I.E. BETWEEN THE 10TH AND 25TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
15.3%	16.4%	16.7%	15.4%	18.9%	9.8%	20.9%	20.2%	11.7%	16.7%	17.3%	19.6%

INDICATOR:

EMOTIONAL MATURITY

AEDC EMOTIONAL MATURITY DOMAIN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE* (I.E. BELOW THE 10TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
8.4%	10.1%	10.6%	7.7%	1.9 %	10.6%	13.2%	23.9%	11.7%	10.4%	11.1%	7.8%



TARGET DIRECTION

Reduction

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

The emotional maturity domain measures children's pro-social and helping behaviours, absence of anxious and fearful behaviour, aggressive behaviour, hyperactivity and inattention (AEDC 2015)

In 2015, the percentage of young people in the Cairns AEDC Community whose emotional maturity was either at-risk (16.7%) or vulnerable (10.65%) was comparable with the State and marginally higher than the Nation. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs, Earlville was significantly below all other suburbs in the percentage of children who were at risk, while Bayview heights was significantly below the other suburbs in percentage of children who were vulnerable. Gordonvale was consistently higher in both risk and vulnerability of children who were not on track in terms of emotional maturity.

INDICATOR:

LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE SKILLS

AEDC LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE SKILLS DOMAIN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY AT-RISK* (I.E. BETWEEN THE 10TH AND 25TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
8.9%	9.7%	7.9%	15.4%	6.5%	7.8%	9.8%	3.7%	11%	7.3%	14.8%	15.7%

INDICATOR:

LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE SKILLS

AEDC LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE SKILLS DOMAIN: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE* (I.E. BELOW THE 10TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
6.5%	8%	7.4%	8.9%	5.8%	7.4%	10.6%	11.9%	5.5%	12.5%	16%	3.9%



TARGET DIRECTION

Reduction

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

The language and cognitive skills domain measures children's basic literacy, interest in literacy, numeracy and memory, advanced literacy and basic numeracy.

In 2015, the percentage of young people in the Cairns AEDC Community whose language and cognitive skills were either at-risk (7.9%) or considered vulnerable (7.45%) was slightly below the State level. It is worth noting that Queensland percentages were slightly higher than the National benchmark on both measures. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs, Bayview Heights (6.5%), Earlville (7.8%) and Gordonvale (3.7%) were below the Cairns AEDC Community and State benchmark on the measure of risk, while Bayview Heights (5.8%), Mount Sheridan (5.5%) and Yarrabah (3.9%) were below the Cairns AEDC Community, and State measure for vulnerability.

INDICATOR:**COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

AEDC COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN:
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE
CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY AT-RISK* (I.E. BETWEEN THE 10TH AND 25TH
PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
15.1%	16.7%	16%	13.5%	14.2%	9.8%	14.9%	25.7%	10.3%	14.6%	21%	23.5%

INDICATOR:**COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

AEDC COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN:
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN NOT ON TRACK ON THIS DOMAIN AND THEREFORE
CONSIDERED TO BE *DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE* (I.E. BELOW THE 10TH PERCENTILE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Bayview Heights	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
8.5%	10.5%	11.3%	11.2%	5.8%	11.3%	17.4%	20.2%	13.1%	11.5%	18.5%	11.8%



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

The communication skills and general knowledge domain measures children's communication skills and general knowledge (AEDC 2015)

In 2015, the percentage of young people in the Cairns AEDC Community whose communication skills and general knowledge was not on track and considered at-risk (16%) or vulnerable (11.3%) were comparable with the State and higher than the National measure. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs, Mount Sheridan (10.3%), and Earlville (9.8%) were significant lower than Cairns AEDC Community, while Gordonvale (25.7%), Woree (21%) and Yarrabah (23.55) were significantly higher than the surrounding suburbs on the measure of risk. On the measure of vulnerability Bayview Height was significantly lower than the surrounding suburbs, with Gordonvale and Woree being higher.

DOMAIN 2 | SAFE AND SECURE

This domain illustrates the level of safety and security children and young people experience in their own homes. Safe environments and communities not only protect children from harm but also promote children's wellbeing by allowing them to exercise their independence through making decisions and taking on new challenges (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 2013). Families, communities and services can work together to protect and nurture children while also preventing neglect and abuse (AIHW, 2011). Children and youth who are loved and safe are more confident, have a strong sense of self-identity and higher self-esteem. In this domain we consider issues such as family/domestic violence; whether children are victims of crime; whether children are experiencing abuse or neglect; are homeless; and have financial security.

INDICATORS

▼ UNEMPLOYED PARENTS

- Percentage of children who live in households where the sole parent or both parents are not working.

▼ HOMELESSNESS

- Percentage of people aged 0-24 years who are homeless as a proportion of the total homelessness population within the SA2 region

▼ OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON

- Number of people (all ages) who have been victims of crime (rate per 1000,000 thousand persons resident population), person as of 30th June 2015

▼ CHILD ABUSE SUBSTANTIATION

- Child abuse substantiation per 1000 children aged 0-17 years: number of investigations of child abuse for children aged 0-17 years that were substantiated.

▼ CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS

- Number of child protection orders issued per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years

▼ CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

- Number of children in out-of-home care per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years (care type includes kinship care, home based care, other home based care, facility based care and independent)

INDICATOR:

UNEMPLOYED PARENTS

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN HOUSEHOLDS WHERE THE SOLE PARENT OR BOTH PARENTS ARE NOT WORKING

Aus	QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
14%	14%	17.3%	17.1%	14.6%	19.8%	16.2%	11.8%	26.9%	32.1%	72.1%



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE
ABS, Census 2011

COMMENTARY

Children and young people living in families with inadequate income are at greater risk of poor health and educational outcomes in the short and long term (AIHW 2009). Low-income families are less likely to have sufficient economic resources to support a minimum standard of living, such as appropriate house, nutrition and medical care. Children can, therefore, be more prone to psychological difficulties, behavioural problems and stress (AIHW 2009).

The percentage of 'unemployed parents' in the Cairns LGA is higher than that of the State generally. Within the Southern Corridor

suburbs, there is some variability across the region: Bentley Park, Earlville-Bayview Heights and Gordonvale -Trinity are comparable with the Cairns LGA and the State. Conversely the communities of Woree, White Rock and Yarrabah having significantly higher rates, which is consistent with the SEIFA data which indicates that Woree and Yarrabah have the highest level of disadvantage within the Southern Corridor communities. The average percentage of unemployment across the Southern Corridor suburbs is 21.2% which is similar to the Cairns LGA measure.



INDICATOR:

HOMELESSNESS

PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE AGED 0-24 YEARS WHO ARE HOMELESS AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL HOMELESSNESS POPULATION WITHIN THE SA2 REGION

Aus	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
42%	58%	40%	73%	0%	28%	60%	63.8%	55.5%



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE
ABS, Census 2011

COMMENTARY

The stability of housing is an important factor for maintaining a safe environment for children. While owning your own home is not a guarantee of housing stability, it is considered to be the most stable form of housing, followed by private or public rental accommodation. The ABS statistical definition states that when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement 'is in a dwelling that is inadequate; or has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations' (Homelessness Australia [2016](#)). In 2011, the ABS estimated

that 44,100 children and young people (aged 0-24 years) were homeless on Census night – 42% of the total homelessness population nationally.

There is high degree of variability in the Southern Corridor around homelessness. Most suburbs have higher levels of homelessness in children and people aged between 0 and 24 with the converse being true for Gordonvale and Mount Sheridan. It is worth noting that the measure for Gordonvale of 0% of the homeless population being between the ages of 0-25 warrants further review as it is suspected to be an issue associated with the data sample size.



INDICATOR:

OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON

NUMBER OF PEOPLE (ALL AGES) WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF CRIME
(RATE PER 1000,000 THOUSAND PERSONS RESIDENT POPULATION),
PERSON AS OF 30TH JUNE 2015

Aus	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
922.2	716.4	766.0	883.6	608.8	395.4	826.3	1,220.9	4,451.0



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE
Queensland Police Service Data

COMMENTARY

Being a victim of crime can have a range of short and long-term negative effects on a young person's physical and psychological health. Based on the data extrapolated from 2013-15, accessed from the QLD Police Service the rate of offences against people (of all ages) for the Southern Corridor suburbs is highly variable. It is important to note that the data represents the area in which the offence occurred and not the home suburb of the victim of crime. The overall rate of offences committed across the Cairns LGA is higher than that reported for the majority of the communities in the Southern Corridor with the exception of Yarrabah, in which offences against people occur at a rate four times greater than that of the Cairns LGA.



INDICATOR:

CHILD ABUSE SUBSTANTIATION

PER 1000 CHILDREN AGED 0-17 YEARS: NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE FOR CHILDREN AGED 0-17 YEARS THAT WERE SUBSTANTIATED

Aus	QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
7.8	5.07	2.23	10.14	3.42	14.67	3.69	18.51	8.08	7.8	17.54



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

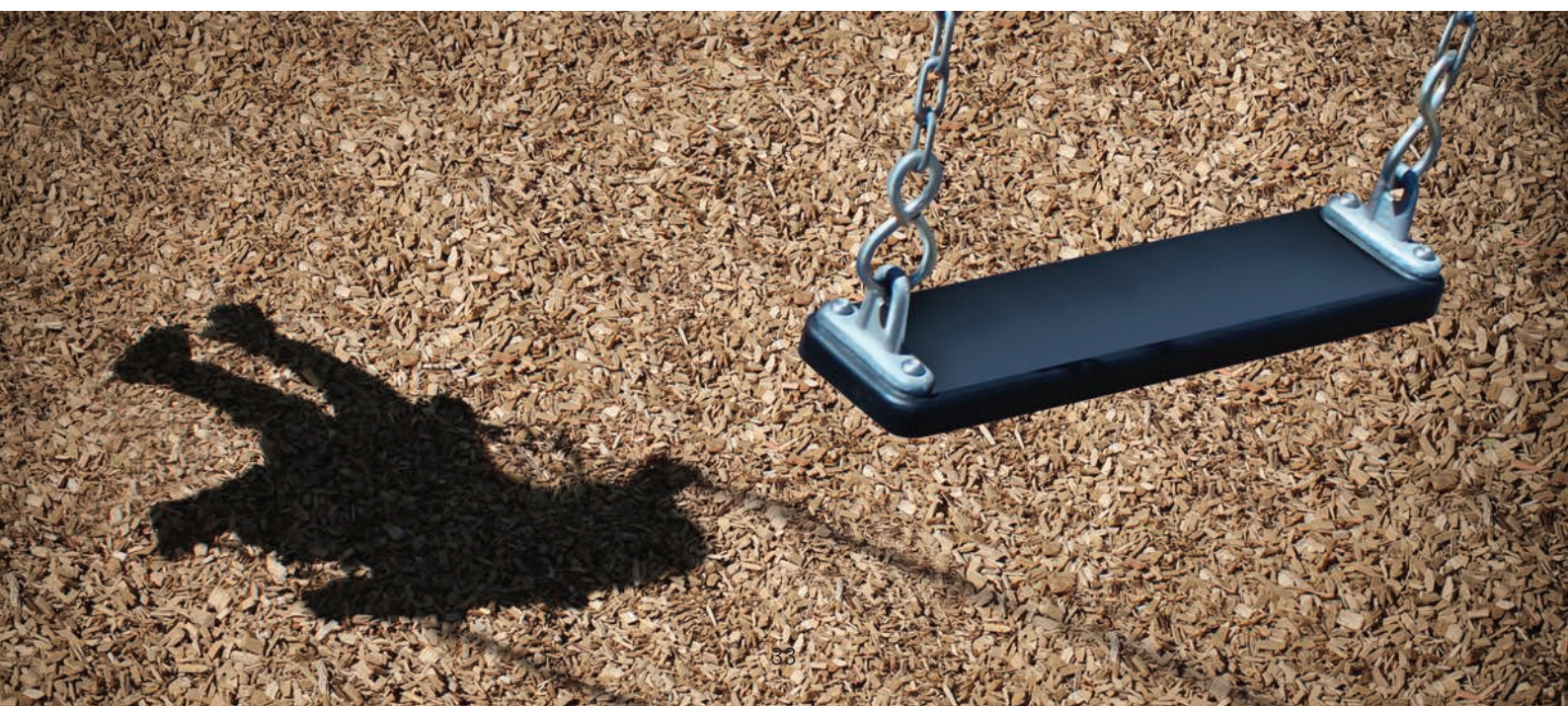
SOURCE
Queensland Police Service Data

COMMENTARY

Substantiated child abuse claims are those finalised investigations of child maltreatment that result in a conclusion that a child has been or is likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. Both national and international research have found that child abuse and neglect can have a profound impact on children and young peoples both in the short term and into adulthood. Child abuse and neglect can lead to poor physical health, secure attachment problems, learning and developmental problems,

substance misuse, mental illness, criminality, homelessness, later parenting issues and suicide (Hunter 2014).

Child abuse substantiation in the Cairns LGA region is significantly less than that of the State or Nation. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs, there is a high degree of variability in the number of child abuse substantiations per 1000 children. All suburbs with the exception of Earlville – Bayview Heights (3.42/1000) and Gordonvale –Trinity (3.69/1000) report a higher rate than that of the State.



INDICATOR:

CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS

NUMBER OF CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS ISSUED PER 1,000 CHILDREN
AGED 0-17 YEARS

Aus	QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
8.7	8.46	2.98	17.57	18.55	18.82	10.89	12.70	5.48	14.68	13.85



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE

2015 Data provided by Department of Communities

COMMENTARY

Child protection orders relate to allegations which are substantiated made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child. The number of child protection orders issued in the Cairns LGA region is significantly less than the State or National average. Conversely the rates of children on child protection orders issued within the Southern Corridor suburbs are higher than the state and national average, with the exception being White Rock.



INDICATOR:

CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE PER 1,000 CHILDREN AGED 0-17 YEARS (CARE TYPE INCLUDES KINSHIP CARE, HOME BASED CARE, OTHER HOME BASED CARE, FACILITY BASED CARE AND INDEPENDENT)

Aus	QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
8.1	7.74	2.82	17.23	18.55	18.82	9.34	13.11	6.17	11.01	11.08



TARGET DIRECTION
Reduction

SOURCE

2015 Data provided by Department of Communities

COMMENTARY

The rate of children who are in out-of-home care in the Cairns LGA is significant lower than the State and National averages. Within the Southern Corridor suburbs, however, White Rock is the only suburb which has a rate lower than the Queensland and National benchmarks. Earlville/ Bayview Heights, Bentley Park, Edmonton, Woree and Yarrabah all have substantially higher numbers of children in out-of-home care than State and National averages.



DOMAIN 3: **HAPPY AND HEALTHY**

An individual's health and wellbeing is dependent on a complex interplay of biological, lifestyle, socioeconomic, societal and environmental factors, many of which can be modified to some extent. There is an opportunity in these early years to reinforce positive behaviours such as physical activity and healthy diet to set strong foundations for future wellbeing (AIHW, 2012b). Furthermore, there is strong evidence to suggest that promoting good health in children and young people can assist to reduce the risk of chronic disease later in life (AIHW, 2012b).

The indicators presented below largely identify a baseline for physical health: healthy eating, healthy weight, physical activity, sun protection and disability. In this domain, social and emotional wellbeing indicators have also been used to present a clearer picture. Such indicators include good mental health; suicide and self-harm (data was available but limited); and alcohol and substance misuse. Unfortunately, there is a data gap in providing this type of information, particularly at the suburb-level.

INDICATORS

▼ HEALTHY EATING

▼ PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

▼ SUN PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS

- Sun protective behaviours data (CNS HHS compared to QLD) - the percentage of the 5-17 year-olds that were sunburnt in the past 12 months.

▼ SUBSTANCE MISUSE

▼ ALCOHOL USE

▼ MENTAL HEALTH

▼ SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE

▼ SPECIAL NEEDS

- Percentage of children (in first year of school) with special needs status and percentage of children who 'need further assessment' (covers not only disability, but chronic health and behaviour concerns)

INDICATOR: HEALTHY EATING

HEALTHY EATING INDICATOR	QUEENSLAND	CAIRNS HHS
% of children 5-17 yrs that had insufficient fruit intake (CNS HHS compared to Qld)	33.5%	28.3%
% of children 5-17 yrs that had insufficient veges intake (CNS HHS compared to Qld)	93.6%	91.9%



TARGET DIRECTION
Improve healthy eating

SOURCE
QLD Preventative Health Survey 2013-14 Data Set

DATA GAP

COMMENTARY

The food people eat largely determines their health. The type of food consumed can affect growth and development. Eating a variety of fruit and vegetables, and enough of these food types, can give people a better chance of getting all the nutrients and dietary fibre they need (AIHW, 2010), and may help to minimise the chances of developing major health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity and certain cancers (WHO, 2016).

The rates of children living in the Cairns and Hinterland Health and Hospital Service District (CHHHS) who have insufficient fruit

and vegetable intake was lower than the Queensland benchmark, indicating children and young people in the CHHHS region are performing better than the state with regards to healthy eating. Having said this, almost 92% of children aged 5-17 years in the CHHHS do not eat a sufficient amount of vegetables.

No specific data is available on this topic that relates directly to the Southern Corridor. It is not possible to draw specific conclusions about the Southern Corridor using this data from the CHHHS district, due to this encompassing a vastly larger boundary.



INDICATOR:

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

HEALTHY EATING INDICATOR	QUEENSLAND	CAIRNS AND HINTERLAND HHS
Overweight and obesity data - % of overweight or obese children aged 5-17yrs (2013-14)	25.3%	25.4%
Physical activity data Children and young people are active in the community - % of young people aged 5-17 yrs insufficient activity in the last week 2013-14	60.6%	60.2%



TARGET DIRECTION

Obesity – Reduction

Physical Activity – Increase

SOURCE

QLD Preventative Health Survey 2013-14 Data Set

COMMENTARY

Children who are overweight or obese are at risk of serious health conditions, such as asthma, cardiovascular conditions and Type 2 diabetes. From the 2011-12 Australian Health Survey, one quarter (25%) of children aged 2–17 are overweight or obese, with 18% being overweight and 7% obese. The proportion of boys who are overweight or obese is not significantly different to girls (25% compared with 26%). (ABS 2013)

In addition to physical health problems, overweight and obese children are frequently victimised and teased by peers, which can

contribute to poor peer relationships and reduced psychological wellbeing. Children who continue to be overweight or obese into adulthood are at greater risk of coronary heart disease, some cancers, and a number of other health disorders (AIHW, 2011). Data from the Queensland Health preventative health telephone surveys indicate that the proportion of children aged 5-17 years who are with either overweight and/or undertake insufficient physical activity within the Cairns HHS region is consistent with the levels reported in the state-wide data.

INDICATOR:

SUN PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS

SUN PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS DATA (CHHHS COMPARED TO QLD) - THE PERCENTAGE OF THE 5-17 YEAR-OLDS THAT WERE SUNBURNT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

INDICATOR	QUEENSLAND	CAIRNS AND HINTERLAND HHS
Sun protective behaviour: % of children not sunburnt in last 12 months aged 5-17yrs	40.8%	38.1%



TARGET DIRECTION

Sun protective behaviours - Increase

SOURCE

QLD Preventative Health Survey 2013-14

COMMENTARY

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with 140,000 new cases and 1,000 deaths recorded each year. Two out of every three Australians develop skin cancer at some point in their lifetime. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for developing skin cancer later in life (NSWCC 2016). Sun protection should begin in childhood and become a habit that continues throughout each child's life. The proportion of children aged 5-17 who were not sunburnt in the last 12 months within the Cairns region was slightly lower than the state average (38.1% vs 40.8%).



INDICATOR: **SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

DATA GAP

Alcohol, cannabis and tobacco are the three most commonly used drugs among young people. According to the National Drug Strategy Household Survey of Australians aged 12-17 years, in 2013 (AIHW 2013):

- ▼ 72.3 per cent are choosing not to drink, but 8.7 per cent had more than four standard drinks at least once a month.
- ▼ Around one in six (14.8%) had tried cannabis
- ▼ 94.7 per cent have never smoked tobacco and just under 3.7 per cent smoked on a daily basis.
- ▼ According to Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2011, nearly three per cent had tried amphetamines.

Many factors influence whether a young person uses drugs, including the availability of drugs within the neighbourhood, community, and school and whether the adolescent's friends are using them. The family environment is also important: violence, physical or emotional abuse, mental illness, or drug use in the household can increase the likelihood an adolescent will use drugs. Finally, an adolescent's inherited genetic vulnerability will play a part: personality traits like poor impulse control or a high need for excitement; mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, or ADHD; and beliefs that drugs are "cool" or harmless make it more likely that an adolescent will use drugs

The principal drugs of concern in the FNQ region (all ages) are alcohol, cannabis, amphetamines, heroin, other opioids, nicotine and volatile substance misuse (VSM). Rates of substance misuse are similar to other parts of Queensland except VSM, for which the levels are higher (CASS 2016)

Unfortunately, no locally-specific data was able to be obtained.

INDICATOR: **ALCOHOL USE**

DATA GAP

Alcohol use at a young age is associated with more frequent use during late adolescence and an increased risk of later dependence. About 1 in 50 (2.2%) 12–14-year-old Australian students in 2008 had drunk more than four standard drinks on a single occasion in the previous week, however, the results in 2011 have not significantly changed with respect to this measure (White 2011)

Heavy drinking can have significant and detrimental effects on brain development during the early years. Children and adolescents who drink are at greater risk of suffering accidental injury, experiencing poor mental health or having social problems. Intoxication during early experiences with alcohol has also been associated with an increased risk of problem drinking in adulthood (AIHW 2011). Again, no data was available at a local community level.

INDICATOR: **MENTAL HEALTH**

DATA GAP

Good mental health in young people is a precursor to good social development, success at school and improved life chances. It protects against suicide and self-harm, involvement in crime and mental illness later in life (AIHW 2010). Population data related to the mental health of children and young people in this region is not collected by any routine government processes, as the focus of data collected by the CHHS is on measuring the delivery of clinical services

INDICATOR:**SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE****DATA GAP****TARGET DIRECTION**

Reduction in presentations

SOURCE

Data CHHHS 2016

Accurate and specific data related to self-harm and suicide was difficult to obtain for the region. Some data was available through the CHHHS for presentations of young people aged up to 18 years old to the Cairns Emergency Department (ED) as described below; and by the case load of the Cairns Child & Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS). CYMHS offers specialised mental health services for families with children and young people (0-18years) who are, or at risk

of, experiencing severe and complex mental health problems, and where their needs cannot be met by other services.

Hospitals play a key role in assessing and linking people at risk of self-harm and suicide to the right supports. Table 4 below shows the total number of presentations in the 2014/15 financial year (1/7/14 – 1/7/15) to the ED of Cairns Hospital for mental health issues or related reasons. Caution needs to be used in interpreting this data as it includes repeat presentations by a single individual, and is highly dependent on how the presentation is coded as part of the triage process at presentation.

With regards to CYMHS Client Numbers, the data provided by the CHHHS in the graphs below shows a snapshot from April 2016. The Southern Corridor suburbs represented (26%) of total CYMHS clients (See Figure 1. Below).

The proportion of males accessing CYMHS who were from the Southern Corridor suburbs was higher than females within both age groups (Refer to Figure 2).

TABLE 4: CHHHS CAIRNS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DATA 2014/15

ED presentations (where alcohol-related problems was recorded as the presenting problem ¹)	950
ED presentations for drugs other than alcohol ²	493
ED presentations for poisoning ³	190
Child at Risk ⁴ (including emotional crisis)	894
Suicidal Ideation (with or without self-harm)	923
Mental Health Related (other than above)	2,043
TOTAL	5,493

For footnote details see appendices

Figure 2. Proportion of Cairns Child & Youth Mental Health Service Client Numbers

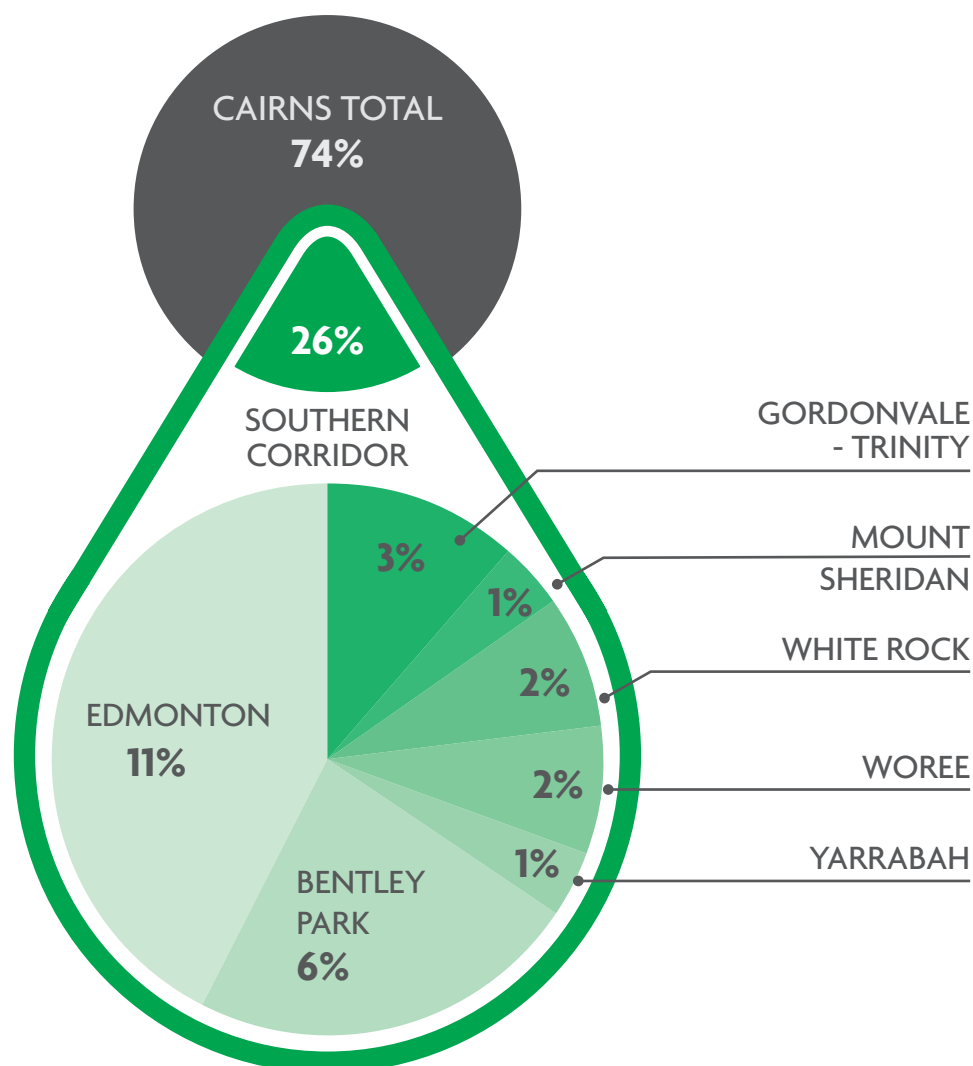
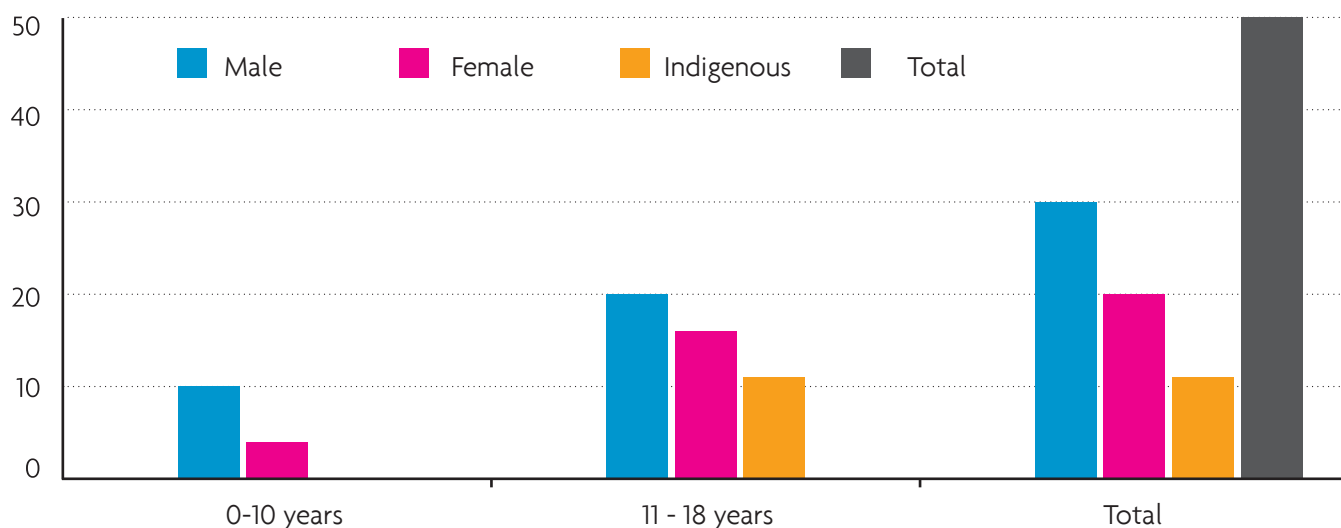


Figure 3. Southern Corridor, total: Demographics of Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS): as at 22 April 2016



INDICATOR:

SPECIAL NEEDS

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (IN FIRST YEAR OF SCHOOL) WITH SPECIAL NEEDS STATUS AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO 'NEED FURTHER ASSESSMENT' (COVERS NOT ONLY DISABILITY, BUT CHRONIC HEALTH AND BEHAVIOUR CONCERNS)

	Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
SPECIAL NEEDS STATUS	4.7%	4.2%	3.3%	4%	2.8%	5.3%	3%	1.4%	3%	2.5%	10.5%
NEEDS FURTHER ASSESSMENT	18.8%	13.9%	12.2%	13.1%	12%	17.6%	18.7%	8.2%	10%	17.3%	1.8%



TARGET DIRECTION

Decrease in special needs
Increase assessment

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

The ability to learn and develop in early childhood can be confounded by a range of factors including disability, chronic disease and behavioural issues.

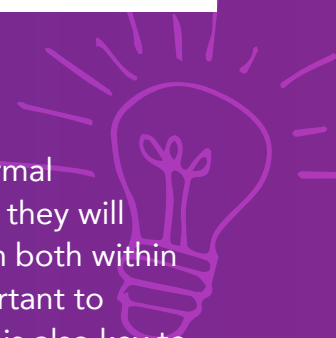
During the period 2011-2014 the percentage of children in the Cairns AEDC Community who were identified from the AEDC data as having special needs, or requiring further assessment was slightly lower than the state and national averages for the same period. For children identified as having special needs in the Southern Corridor suburbs, Yarrabah stood out as a community with high special needs. Furthermore, Edmonton and Gordonvale stood out as communities who had a high proportion of children requiring further assessment.





DOMAIN 4 | **ENGAGED, LEARNING & ACHIEVING**

This domain considers whether children are getting the practical support, encouragement and opportunity to learn and participate in formal and informal education experiences. It considers whether children are acquiring the skills they will need to support a continual process of lifelong learning. Children learn from both within the home and outside the home. While the family environment is very important to future learning, participation in early childhood education and care services is also key to enabling children to perform well at school and to learn the skills they require for their future lives (AIHW, 2012a). "Children and young people who fail to engage in school, work or other education/training are at risk of school failure, unemployment, risky health behaviours and mental health problems, social exclusion, and economic and social disadvantage over the longer term." (PHIDU 2011)



INDICATORS

▼ EARLY YEARS READING

- Percentage of young children whose 'parents read to them regularly/occasionally' (includes 'very true and somewhat true')

▼ EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Percentage of children who experienced an education program in preschool, kindergarten or day care before going to school for the first time

▼ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Percentage attendance rate at primary and secondary schools in the region.

▼ READING AND NUMERACY STANDARDS

- The percentage of students in yr 3 meeting (or exceeding) the national min. standard for reading
- The percentage of students in yr 3 meeting (or exceeding) the national min. standard for numeracy
- The percentage of students in yr 5 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for reading
- The percentage of students in yr 5 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for numeracy
- The percentage of students in yr 7 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for Reading
- The percentage of students in yr 7 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for Numeracy
- The percentage of students in yr 9 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for reading
- The percentage of students in yr 9 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for numeracy

▼ LEARNING OR EARNING

- Percentage of young people aged 15-19 years who are either working or learning (attending school, vocational education or university)

INDICATOR:

EARLY YEARS READING

PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG CHILDREN WHOSE 'PARENTS READ TO THEM REGULARLY/OCCASIONALLY' (INCLUDING VERY TRUE AND SOMEWHAT TRUE)

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
93.5%	92.5%	89.9%	85.8%	89.5%	81.9%	76.9%	87.8%	76%	84%	45.6%



TARGET DIRECTION

Improve

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

The importance of reading to children during their early years is demonstrated in research by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (DEECD, 2013). The research found that the frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment.

Parent/adult support of formal learning at home (reading, interest/enthusiasm for school, helping with homework, ensuring children have eaten breakfast) improves school achievement and completion and decreases class-cutting and behavioural problems (Desforges & Abouchaar 2003; DEECD 2013).

From the 2015 AEDC data the percentage of parents who read to their children either regularly or occasionally for the Cairns AEDC Community is marginally lower than the state and national measures. Within the Southern Corridor most suburbs in this region are not on par with the Cairns AEDC community, state or national average, especially Yarrabah, White Rock, Gordonvale.



INDICATOR:

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCED AN EDUCATION PROGRAM IN PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN OR DAY CARE BEFORE GOING TO SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME

Aus	QLD	Cairns AEDC	Bayview Heights	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville	Edmonton	Gordonvale – Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
91.3%	84.1%	81.7%	92.2%	77.1%	89.1%	71.9%	82.9%	84.7%	84.4%	68.9%	94.2%



TARGET DIRECTION

Improve participation rates

SOURCE

Australian Early Development Census 2015

* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

COMMENTARY

Quality early childhood education has significant positive effects on children's social and cognitive development and school readiness. Recent research by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social research has demonstrated the advantage that preschool attendance has on NAPLAN results (DEECD, 2013).

Base on the 2015 NAPLAN data, the percentage of children who experience a formal education program prior to attending school for the first time in the Cairns AEDC Community was slightly under the Queensland benchmark and was significantly lower than the national benchmark.

For the Southern Corridor most of the suburbs were doing better or were comparable with the Cairns AEDC Community except for Woree, Edmonton and Bentley Park. Yarrabah is doing significantly better in this indicator than the national, state and Cairns LGA measures.



INDICATOR:

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE RATE AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE REGION

SA2	SCHOOL	STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE ALL STUDENTS	STUDENT ATTENDANCE INDIGENOUS STUDENTS
Earlville - Bayview Heights	Our Lady Help of Christians School (Prep-6)	95%	92%
Bentley Park	Bentley Park College	87%	80%
	St Therese's School	95%	94%
Edmonton	Hambledon State School	92%	90%
	Isabella State School	91%	86%
Gordonvale	Cairns Adventists College	95%	94%
	Djarragun College	74%	
	Gordonvale State High School	88%	83%
	Gordonvale State School	91%	86%
	St Michael's School	95%	85%
White Rock	Trinity Anglican State School	95%	92%
	White Rock State School	91%	89%
Mount Sheridan	nil		
Woree	St Gerard Majella Primary School	95%	90%
	St Marys Catholic College	94%	92%
	Woree State High	86%	82%
	Woree State School	89%	83%
Yarrabah	Yarrabah State School (Pre-Prep - year 10 school)	67%	-



TARGET DIRECTION

Improve participation rates

SOURCE

MySchool data 2015

COMMENTARY

Attendance at school is critical to achieving learning outcomes and a lack of attendance has the potential to confound the NAPLAN results.

INDICATOR:

READING AND NUMERACY STANDARDS

NAPLAN (IN 2015): THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 3 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING) THE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD FOR READING

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 3 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING) THE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD FOR NUMERACY

	Aus	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
Reading	96%	90.0%	95.1%	87.3%	89.5%	-	94.4%	94.6%	78.7%
Numeracy	96%	93.9%	100%	88.4%	93.4%	-	97.7%	96.5%	68.9%



TARGET DIRECTION
Improving

SOURCE
2015 NAPLAN data

COMMENTARY

Education is fundamentally important to healthy development of children, assisting them with the skills they need to navigate the adult world including employment, study or training. Measuring student achievement helps parents and educators understand how children are faring in their learning and provides information that can be used to guide development of the child and the school's education programs. Since 2008, all students in Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 have been tested annually using a common assessment tool, the National Assessment Program – Literary and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This tool is administered by the Australian

Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

The proportion of year 3 students who are meeting or exceeding the national minimum standard for reading within all the Southern Corridor suburbs is below the national benchmark of 96%.

The proportion of children in Year 3 who are meeting or exceeding the national minimum standard for numeracy in year 3 within the Southern Corridor suburbs is more variable with Earlville – Bayview Heights, White Rock and Woree exceeding that national benchmark but Edmonton (88.4%) and Yarrabah (68.7%) significantly below the national benchmark.



INDICATOR:

READING AND NUMERACY STANDARDS

NAPLAN 2015: THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 5 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING) THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR READING

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 5 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING) THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR NUMERACY

	Aus	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
Reading	95%	95.7%	100%	86.9%	92.1%	-	95%	93.5%	64.4%
Numeracy	97%	95.7%	93.9%	92.2%	92.5%	-	98%	96.7%	66.7%



TARGET DIRECTION
Increase

SOURCE
2015 NAPLAN data

COMMENTARY

The proportion of year 5 students who are meeting or exceeding the national minimum standard for reading within the Southern Corridor suburbs are, with the exception of Yarrabah and Edmonton, within 5% of the national benchmark.

With regards to numeracy, Yarrabah is the only suburb that is not within 5% of the national benchmark.



INDICATOR:

READING AND NUMERACY STANDARDS

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 7 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING)
THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR READING

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 7 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING)
THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR NUMERACY

	Aus	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
Reading	97%	93.7%	-	-	89.0%	-	96.5%	95.6%	81.8%
Numeracy	98%	89.4%	-	-	97.1%	-	100%	96.7%	76.2%



TARGET DIRECTION
Improve

SOURCE
2015 NAPLAN data

COMMENTARY

The proportion of year 7 students who are meeting or exceeding the national standard for reading within the Southern Corridor is consistently below or comparable with the national benchmark. Yarrabah and Gordonvale are significantly below the national measure. With regards to numeracy, Bentley Park and Yarrabah are significantly below the national measure.



INDICATOR:

READING AND NUMERACY STANDARDS

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 9 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING)
THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR READING

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 9 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING)
THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR NUMERACY

	Aus	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
Reading	94%	85%	-	-	80.8%	-	100%	85.6%	15.4%
Numeracy	97%	95.0%	-	-	94.9%	-	100%	97%	85.7%



TARGET DIRECTION
Increase

SOURCE
2015 NAPLAN data

COMMENTARY

The proportion of year 9 students who are meeting or exceeding the national standard for reading within the Southern Corridor is consistently below or comparable to the national benchmark with Bentley Park and Yarrabah very significantly below the national measure. In numeracy, all suburbs except White Rock and Woree are below the national measure.



INDICATOR:

LEARNING OR EARNING

PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-19 YEARS WHO ARE EITHER WORKING OR LEARNING (ATTENDING SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OR UNIVERSITY)

Aus	QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park (SA2)	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
88.3%	86.0%	82.6%	86.7%	84.8%	82.0%	84.1%	86.5%	79.9%	66.2%	34.5%



TARGET DIRECTION
Increase

SOURCE
2011 ABS Census

COMMENTARY

Young people who fail to engage in school, work or other education/training are at increased risk of unemployment, risky health behaviours, mental health problems, social exclusion, and economic and social disadvantage in the longer term. While the figures for the Cairns LGA are lower than the state and national measure for this indicator, the Southern Corridor suburbs are above the Cairns LGA average with the exception of White Rock, Woree and Yarrabah.



DOMAIN 5 | ACTIVE CITIZENS

Participation in the community for children and young people includes involvement with peers and clubs, having a voice in matters that concern them and, increasingly, having access to technology for social connections. In practice, creating 'active citizens' means children and youth are listened to; are supported to express their views; their views are taken into account; and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them.

There is a general lack of data on children's participation with the available data focused mainly on the 18-25 age range. Much more work is needed to identify indicators and data sources that adequately reflect this important area (ARACY, 2006). Community participation indicators could include activities such as being involved in clubs and community organisations, cultural activities and volunteering. Unfortunately, due to a lack of available data, volunteering and internet access were the only measurable indicators that could be presented in this report.



INDICATORS

▼ FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES MODEL GOOD CITIZENSHIP

- The percentage of persons all ages who undertook voluntary work.

▼ INTERNET CONNECTION

- The percentage of total occupied private dwellings with an internet connection.

INDICATOR:

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES MODEL GOOD CITIZENSHIP

THE PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS ALL AGES WHO UNDERTOOK VOLUNTARY WORK

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
18.7%	17.6%	15.9%	18.7%	14.7%	18.6%	17.2%	13.8%	14%	11.2%



TARGET DIRECTION
Increase

SOURCE
2011 ABS Census Data

COMMENTARY

Research reveals that the higher the 'social capital' in a community, the better the outcomes will be for children, young people and their families (DEECD 2013). Social Capital is defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as "the networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups" (OECD 2016). If families and community members model good citizenship such as volunteering, then children and young people are more likely to follow this behaviour. The Southern Corridor suburbs are comparable with Queensland with respect to the rates of volunteer work, however there was significant variation between the suburbs.



INDICATOR:

INTERNET CONNECTION

THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION

QLD	Cairns LGA	Bentley Park	Earlville - Bayview Heights	Edmonton	Gordonvale - Trinity	Mount Sheridan	White Rock	Woree	Yarrabah
78.3%	77.8%	83.2%	75.6%	76.6%	74.2%	84.6%	73.8%	66.2%	26%



TARGET DIRECTION

Improve

SOURCE

2011 ABS, Census Data

COMMENTARY

While many studies indicate a decline in participation in conventional forms of representative democracy, emerging research claims there has not been a decline in people's participation, but rather a shift in the ways in which young people engage. This pertains to an increased integration of online channels (as opposed to offline 'real-world' channels) for participation (DEET, 2010).

Data for children and young people having access to the internet was not available, therefore, data has been used for ALL dwellings not just those with children and youth living in them. Based on 2011 census date, Yarrabah had very low rates of internet access though, it is anticipated that, due to changes in mobile technology, this rate may have changed since the last census.



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APPENDIX 1 | ABOUT THE DATA SOURCES

The data and statistics contained within this report have been drawn from a number of sources. Information about the scope and limitations of these data sets, along with reference material for readers looking to examine the source data more closely, have been provided in this appendix.

1 | AUSTRALIA BUREAU OF STATISTIC 2011 CENSUS DATA

Demographic data has been extracted from the ABS reports based on the 2011 Census data and modelling.

ABS data definition can be found at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/2901.0Main%20Features702016?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=2901.0&issue=2016&num=&view>

2 | ABS, CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING, 2011, BASIC COMMUNITY PROFILE - B19 (USUAL RESIDENCE).

Voluntary work undertaken for an organisation or group has been derived from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing question 'In the last twelve months did the person spend any time doing voluntary work through an organisation or group?' The variable is based on persons aged 15 years and over by place of usual residence.

3 | ABS, CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING, 2011, BASIC COMMUNITY PROFILE - B35 (OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS)

The type of Internet connection has been derived from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing question 'Can the Internet be accessed at this dwelling?'. This is based on occupied private dwellings by place of enumeration.

4 | AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS

This nationwide data collection census captures information at the time children commence their first year of full-time school. The AEDC is held every three years, with the 2015 AEDC data collection being the third collection. The census involves teachers of children in their first year of full-time school completing a research tool, the Australian version of the Early Development Instrument. The instrument collects data relating to five key areas of early childhood development referred to as 'domains', these include:

- ▼ Physical health and well being
- ▼ Social competence
- ▼ Emotional maturity
- ▼ Language and cognitive skills
- ▼ Communication skills and general knowledge

The AEDC census data provides "a snapshot of children's development that can inform communities and support planning, policy and action". The AEDC domains have been shown to predict later health, wellbeing and academic success <https://www.aedc.gov.au/about-the-aedc>.

Use of the AEDC in this report

Results are reported based on where children live, not where they go to school. Data used in this report for the Cairns Community Profile included the following suburbs: Bentley Park, Brinsmead, Yarrabah, Freshwater, Mooroolbool, Edmonton, Kewarra Beach, Manunda, Kanimbla, Manoora, White rock, Whitfield, Woree, Mount Sheridan, Redlynch, Cairns North, Bayview Heights, Trinity Beach, Clifton beach and surrounds, Aloomba, Gordonvale, Westcourt, Machans Beach, Smithfield, Earlville, Yorkey Knob, Cairns city, Holloways Beach, Parramatta Park, Outer Babinda, Caravonica/Barron, Trinity Park, Kamerunga, Goldsborough, Stratford/Areoglen, Babinda, Green Hill, Macalister Range. * Some suburbs are not included due to there being insufficient AEDC data available.

It should also be noted that the nine AEDC local communities have very similar but not exact boundary alignment with the eight SA2s. The key differences being that Earlville and Bayview are separated out; the SA2 Trinity-Gordonvale is much bigger than AEDC community of Gordonvale; and the AEDC community of Edmonton crosses over into the SA2 Gordonvale-Trinity

Australian Government (2015), 'AEDC Australian Early Development Census, Australian Government, Canberra. <http://www.aedc.gov.au/data>

5 | CAIRNS & HINTERLAND HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICE – CLINICAL SERVICE DATA PROVIDED UNDER AGREEMENT BY CHHHS

The Cairns & Hinterland Hospital and Health service region covers a region of 141,000 square kilometres ranging from Cairns to Tully in the south, Cow Bay in the north and Croydon in the west and has an estimated population of population of 283,197 which is forecast to grow by 9% by 2026. In comparison the Project Region covers only 544.4 square kilometres, and has an estimated population of 58, 511.

Notes on figures:

- 1 Includes Alcohol Intoxication, Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome, Alcohol Gastritis and Alcoholic Hallucinosi
- 2 Includes presentations coded as Cannabis, Amphetamine, Opiates, Drug Addiction, Drug Induced mental disorder, and Drug withdrawal syndrome
- 3 Poisoning includes paracetamol overdose and other drug ingestion which may or may not have been self-administered.
- 4 Includes presentations coded as Child Abuse/neglect/maltreatment, Child at Risk, Emotional Crisis, Behavioural Problems, Miscarriage, Sexual Assault, Sexually Transmitted Disease and Unconscious (unknown cause)

6 | MY COMMUNITIES GOVERNMENT DATA SET

http://www.myhealthycommunities.gov.au/Content/publications/downloads/NHPA_HC_Report_Imm_Rates_February_2016.pdf?t=14562787211

7 | MYSCHOOL ATTENDANCE RECORDS

Notes: * When a school's results are unavailable or there are fewer than, or equal to, five Indigenous or non-Indigenous students, a dash '-' will be displayed. This is to protect the privacy of students.

The student attendance rate information is collected by schools and reported on My School twice yearly by Indigenous status for semester 1 (terms 1 and 2) and term 3.

The student attendance rate is defined as the number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Years 1 to 10 as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended over the period. Student attendance is for Semester One, 2015

<http://myschool.edu.au/StudentAttendance/Index>

8 | NAPLAN 2015 RESULTS FROM THE QUEENSLAND CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Notes on interpreting NAPLAN results are available at the following URL

http://www.acara.edu.au/resources/Interpreting_NAPLAN_results_file.pdf

Year 7 NAPLAN data: Since 2015, year 7 is now included within the high schools. There are no high schools in the Edmonton, Earlville –Bayview Heights and Mount Sheridan areas.

9 | NATIONAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE AUTHORITY ANALYSIS OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION REGISTER STATISTICS 2014–15

A child has received the scheduled vaccinations according to age. See Technical Note at www.myhealthycommunities.gov.au/publications

† Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, aged 1, 2 or 5 years, combined.

‡ Components may not add to totals because of rounding.

§ A change in the definition of 'fully immunised' for 2 year olds occurred on 31 Dec 2014 with the inclusion of three additional vaccines. This caused a decrease in the reported immunisation coverage rates which are measured at 2 years of age, see page 12 for further information.

NP Not available for publication as the area has fewer than 26 registered children, or the number of children not fully immunised is between one and five inclusive.

10 | QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. QUEENSLAND SURVEY ANALYTICS SYSTEM (QSAS), FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION IN QUEENSLAND

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/research-reports/population-health/preventive/data/preventive-health-surveys/results/default.asp#supporting>

<http://www.performance.health.qld.gov.au/hospitalperformance/immunisation.aspx?id=80>

11 | QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. QUEENSLAND SURVEY ANALYTICS SYSTEM (QSAS), PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN QUEENSLAND, REGIONAL DETAILED CHILD DATA. ACCESS DATE: 13TH JULY 2016

URL: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/research-reports/population-health/preventive/data/preventive-health-surveys/results/default.asp#supportin>

12 | QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PERINATAL DATA COLLECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Prepared by: Statistical Reporting & Coordination, Statistical Services Branch, Department of Health (May 5, 2016)

13 | QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE PUBLICALLY REPORTED DATA

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/forms/crimestatsdesktop.asp>

The reference date for reported offences is the date an offence is reported to or detected by police. Data are based on the location in which the offence occurred. Rates are calculated using the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) as at 30 June of the reported financial year. The ERP for 30 June 2015 have been linearly extrapolated using the change between 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2014.

Offences against the person includes the following offence sub-divisions: homicide (murder); other homicide; assault; sexual offences; robbery; and other offences against the person. Offences traffic and related offences and miscellaneous offences.

APPENDIX 2 | COMPLETE LIST OF INDICATORS USED IN THIS REPORT

▼ LONE PARENTS YOUNGER THAN 25

- Percentage of families who are lone parents aged under 25 years Indicator:

▼ TEENAGE BIRTH RATES

- Annual average percentage of births to teenage mothers (aged 15-19 years) over the period 2010-2014
- Indigenous teenage birth rate: annual average percentage of births to teenage mothers (aged 15-19 years) over the period 2010-2014

▼ SMOKING RATES DURING PREGNANCY

- Smoking during pregnancy: percentage of mothers smoking during pregnancy (average for the period 2010-2014)
- Smoking during pregnancy: percentage of indigenous mothers smoking during pregnancy (average for the period 2010-2014)

▼ LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

- Percentage of babies exhibiting low birth weight
- Percentage of indigenous babies exhibiting low birth weight

▼ IMMUNISATIONS

- Percentage of children fully immunised. (HHS)

▼ DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE

- Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census.
- Percentage of children who are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (SA2)

▼ PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- AEDC physical health and wellbeing domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at-risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- AEDC physical health and wellbeing domain: percentage of children not on track for this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally vulnerable (i.e. below the 10th percentile)

▼ SOCIAL COMPETENCE

- AEDC social competence domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)

▼ EMOTIONAL MATURITY

- AEDC emotional maturity domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at-risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- AEDC emotional maturity domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally vulnerable (i.e. below the 10th percentile)

▼ LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE SKILLS

- AEDC language and cognitive skills domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at-risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- AEDC language and cognitive skills domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally vulnerable (i.e. below the 10th percentile)

▼ COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- AEDC communication skills and general knowledge domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally at-risk (i.e. between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- AEDC communication skills and general knowledge domain: percentage of children not on track on this domain and therefore considered to be developmentally vulnerable (i.e. below the 10th percentile)

▼ UNEMPLOYED PARENTS

- Percentage of children who live in households where the sole parent or both parents are not working.

▼ HOMELESSNESS:

- Percentage of people aged 0-24 years who are homeless as a proportion of the total homelessness population within the SA2 region

▼ OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON

- Number of people (all ages) who have been victims of crime (rate per 1000,000 thousand persons resident population), person as of 30th June 2015

▼ CHILD ABUSE SUBSTANTIATION

- Child abuse substantiation per 1000 children aged 0-17 years: number of investigations of child abuse for children aged 0-17 years that were substantiated.

▼ CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS

- Number of child protection orders issued per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years

▼ CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

- Number of children in out-of-home care per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years (care type includes kinship care, home based care, other home based care, facility based care and independent)

▼ HEALTHY EATING

- Physical activity, overweight and obesity

▼ SUN PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS

- Sun protective behaviours data (CNS HHS compared to QLD) - the percentage of the 5-17 year-olds that were sunburnt in the past 12 months.

▼ SUBSTANCE MISUSE

- Alcohol use

▼ MENTAL HEALTH

▼ SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE

▼ SPECIAL NEEDS

- Percentage of children (in first year of school) with special needs status and percentage of children who need further assessment (covers not only disability, but chronic health and behaviour concerns)

▼ EARLY YEARS READING

- Percentage of young children whose 'parents read to them regularly/occasionally ' (including very true and somewhat true)

▼ EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Percentage of children who experienced an education program in preschool, kindergarten or day care before going to school for the first time

▼ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Percentage attendance rate at state primary and secondary schools in the region.

▼ READING AND NUMERACY STANDARDS

- The percentage of students in year 3 meeting (or exceeding) the national minimum standard for reading
- The percentage of students in year 3 meeting (or exceeding) the national minimum standard for numeracy
- The percentage of students in year 5 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for reading
- The percentage of students in year 5 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for numeracy
- The percentage of students in year 7 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for Reading
- The percentage of students in year 7 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for Numeracy
- The percentage of students in year 9 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for reading
- The percentage of students in year 9 meeting (or exceeding) the national standard for numeracy

▼ LEARNING OR EARNING

- Percentage of young people aged 15-19 years who are either working or learning (attending school, vocational education or university)

▼ FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES MODEL GOOD CITIZENSHIP

- The percentage of persons all ages who undertook voluntary work.

▼ INTERNET CONNECTION

- The percentage of total occupied private dwellings with an internet connection.

