

# First 5 Forever: Thriving Child-Friendly Communities



**Rural Economies**  
Centre of Excellence

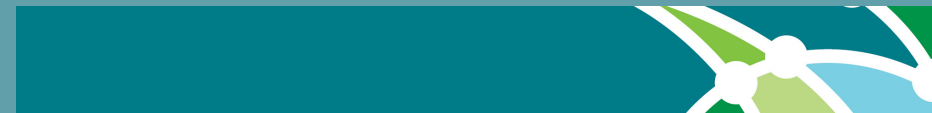
An Evaluation Overview



**Dr Geoff Woolcock**

Institute for Resilient Regions, Uni Southern Queensland

*Future libraries: Better communities stakeholder  
symposium, SLQ, March 16-17, 2023*





1980





# 2008-2010 The Corner - an ecology of play, language and literacy

Dan Georgeron



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Presented by Young People and the Arts Australia

## CHANGING HABITATS

Are children & young people democratising culture?

"Prepare to get charged up,  
be challenged & leave inspired."

Rose Myers - Artistic Director Out of the Box



JUNE 2010

## CHANGING HABITATS

Are children & young people democratising culture?

A national symposium exploring the connections  
between arts, culture and the creative lives  
of children and young people.

Be engaged in nationally significant conversations with international and national  
guest speakers in forums, workshops, performances, networking events and skill  
sharing. **Book now!** Earlybird prices & YPAA Member discounts available.

6, 7, 8 June: PRELIMINARY MASTERCLASS (limited places)  
8, 9, 10 June: NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Held as part of QPAC's Out of the Box Festival at the State Library of  
Queensland's new digital cultural centre, 'The Edge', Brisbane.

Recommended for artists, cultural practitioners, arts managers, educators, producers,  
youth workers, government employees, academics, parents and young people.

ypaa Young People  
and the Arts Australia  
ASSITEJ Australia Inc

YPAA is the national peak body for  
organisations and practitioners  
engaging children and young  
people in the arts.

info@ypaa.net | 07-3254-0553  
PO BOX 1236, New Farm Q 4005

www.ypaa.net



2014



## How are Queensland Kids Faring? Symposium Program

An inaugural state-wide Symposium co-hosted by Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth (ARACY), Children's Health Queensland, the State Library of Queensland and the Logan Child-Friendly Community Consortium for practitioners across the sector to strengthen networks and work towards a whole of community approach to improving children's wellbeing.

### 9:00am – 9:30am WELCOME

MC for the day Madonna King  
Welcome to Country by Songwoman Marooddy  
Performance from Harris Field's State School Choir  
Introduction of ARACY's *The Nest* by Gill Calvert

### 9:30am – 10:20am KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Professor Brian Bumbarger from Penn State University.  
*Brian Bumbarger is the Founding Director of the EPISCenter, as well as Assistant Director of Knowledge Translation and Dissemination at the Prevention Research Center at Penn State University. Brian is involved with Communities That Care in the United States, and has a particular interest in supporting communities to adopt evidence-based prevention programs focused on preventing adolescent substance abuse, delinquency, violence and school failure.*

### 10:20am – 11:10am DATA SNAPSHOT PRESENTATIONS

Child Safety – Fiona Boorman, Acting Director of Research, Commission for Children and Young People & Child Guardian.  
Child Health - Sue McKee, General Manager Operations, Children's Health Queensland  
Early Childhood - Kathryn Woods, Executive Director, Program Management, Funding and Performance, Department of Education, Training Employment.  
Education - Roland Simons, Executive Director, Performance Monitoring and Reporting Branch, Department of Education, Training and Employment.

### 8:30 am REGISTRATION

Tea and Coffee on arrival

### 11:10am MORNING TEA on the Terrace

### 12:30pm LUNCH on the Terrace

### 2:45pm DRINKS & NETWORKING on the Terrace

### 11:30am – 12:30 pm EVIDENCE INFORMED PANEL DISCUSSION

A Panel will respond to and discuss the Data Snapshots. Panel will include:

Professor Brian Bumbarger (Penn State University); Steve Armitage (Qld Commissioner for Children and Young People); Sue McKee (Children's Health Queensland); Kathryn Woods (DETE); Professor Matt Sanders (UQ); Professor Ross Homel (Griffith Uni) and Professor Karen Thorpe (QUT)

### 1:15pm – 2:05pm PRACTICE WISDOM STORIES

Five stories of success will be shared by:  
Play Your Part - NARPCAN - Trudi Peters, National Manager, Play your Part  
Deadly Choices - Keiron Lander, Improving Indigenous Outcomes  
Dad's Read, Read for Life – Dani Georgeson from State Library of Queensland - Central Qld, AEDI Community Grant  
Kids Matter - Gary Montgomery, Principal, St Mark's Catholic School  
Bestlife Sleepover - Kath Coory, Founder & Initiator Bestlife Sleepover

### 2:05pm – 2:35pm PANEL OF PRACTITIONERS

Panel of practitioners will consist of those from practice wisdom presentations alongside A/Professor Geoff Woolcock (ARACY Qld Convenor and Wesley Mission Brisbane), Gill Calvert (ARACY) and Kylie Lang (Editor, Q Weekend).

### 2:35pm – 2:45pm WRAP UP

Suggestion and Ideas box.

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HowAreQueenslandKidsFaringSymposium](https://www.facebook.com/HowAreQueenslandKidsFaringSymposium)



## 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014 HOW ARE QUEENSLAND'S KIDS FARING? SYMPOSIUM

### A Symposium to Further Systems Integration for Children's Wellbeing

The Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth (ARACY) first ever national plan for children's wellbeing *The Nest* presents an important challenge for not only how changes can be implemented 'at the coalface' but then demonstrate real evidence of success.

The symposium will focus on the potential for furthering system integration – particularly in health and education – to progress children and young people's wellbeing, featuring internationally respected Queensland researchers and successful practitioners sharing their stories via interactive discussion panels.

With an audience of over 250 drawn from all sectors working to improve children's wellbeing, this Symposium is also a tremendous opportunity to strengthen your networks through the day's proceedings, including afternoon drinks on the Queensland Terrace.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/event/how-are-queenslands-kids-faring-a-symposium-to-further-systems-integration-for-childrens-wellbeing-registration-1318231210>



**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION BY PROF BRIAN BUMBARGER, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY'S PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER.**

**MC - MADONNA KING**

**DATA SNAPSHOTS AND HEARTWARMING STORIES ABOUT IMPROVING CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH PROF/S MATT SANDERS, KAREN THORPE AND ROSS HOMEL**

**DATE: 19TH JUNE, 2014**

**TIME: 9 AM – 3 PM**

**WHERE: STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND**

**COST: \$100**



2018-2020





# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 1

*Increasing access to early literacy experiences*

## Highlights

- First 5 Forever is a Free and accessible program delivered in over 320 public libraries throughout Queensland
- In 2019-2022, libraries delivered over 7000 outreach events for over 250,000 participants
- All councils with library services are participating in the program
- Ongoing funding including co-investment by Local Government enables place-based action at a local level to be relevant to local communities, priorities and opportunities.
- Diverse delivery is a sign of success with case studies and annual reporting demonstrating the diverse ways that First 5 Forever has expanded
- Maturity: With libraries having delivered First 5 Forever since 2015, the program is now embedded in library services



# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 1

*Increasing access to early literacy experiences*



## Case Study Excerpt: Scenic Rim

Scenic Rim Regional Councils First 5 Forever Outreach program has outlined key themes and messages around Local Stories, Space, Farm, NAIDOC, Food, Nature, Animals, Colours and Celebrations. Storytime and Rhyme time at Beaudesert Library have taken off with bookings essential due to increased numbers and limited space. One solution was to implement another Storytime at Beaudesert park every month, which has been gathering momentum with new and repeated participants attending. The First 5 Forever van is well recognised, and it continues to travel around the Scenic Rim bringing outreach programs to our more remote communities. The van has been a great promotion for the First 5 Forever Program in the Scenic Rim, as well as a necessary mode of transport and storage.

*We acknowledge the provision of this information through annual reporting by Scenic Rim Libraries.*





# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 1

*Increasing access to early literacy experiences*

## Challenges & Opportunities

- Although growth in participation is seen in 2021/22, only 52 councils are currently participating in outreach events. Recommend supporting libraries to focus resources on broader outreach community partnered work for maximum impact
- Resources need to be devoted to capture and measure the diverse ways libraries are increasing access to early literacy experiences and share stories of impact
- *Community informed measures of success*: Capturing First 5 Forever data through an evaluation impact model rather than focusing solely on the activity
- *Identifying needs*: Utilising AEDC data and other relevant data sets (eg adult literacy) to provide libraries with the necessary insights to ensure that their activities are tailored to meet the needs of their target audiences. Recommend State Library focus further resources addressing inequality of access/higher levels of vulnerability on AEDC domains, building on the Program Funding Methodology 2022-2026 inc AEDC and ABS Remoteness Area values





## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 2

*Reaching Queensland Families*

### Highlights

- Participation data shows families returning to onsite programming post-COVID with 200% growth in participation between COVID-19 affected 2020/21 and 2021/22
- Digital programming, while significantly decreased (86% decrease from 20/21 to 21/22) is still being developed and delivered by libraries as a part of their First 5 Forever program
- Activity at a local level supports *Creative Together: 2020-2030* road map by integrating rich digital experiences into programs
- Statewide ongoing funding provides a secure base for BAU programming, complemented by grant funding providing opportunities to innovate and respond to emerging priorities. In the period 2019-2022, 33 councils were awarded *Driving Innovation* and *Micro Grants* to undertake 44 First 5 Forever initiatives
- First 5 Forever's 'Stories for Little Queenslanders' published 12 Queensland stories and nurturing and celebrating writers and illustrators with connections to Queensland



# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 2

## *Reaching Queensland Families*



### Spotlight on Stories for Little Queenslanders

Stories for Little Queenslanders was one of two literacy initiatives delivered in 2021/22 financial year, targeted at children aged 0- 5. This initiative provided a unique opportunity for Queensland families and libraries to see themselves and their local places represented in the books.

Run as a competition for authors and illustrators with connections to Queensland, the initiative produced 12 high-quality picture books, including 3 picture books by First Nations authors. The 12 story books aimed to celebrate the diversity of Queensland families, places and experiences across Queensland. The titles were produced and distributed to public libraries and were also developed into eBooks, audio books, online reading time, songs for Little Queenslanders and translated into a range of community languages.



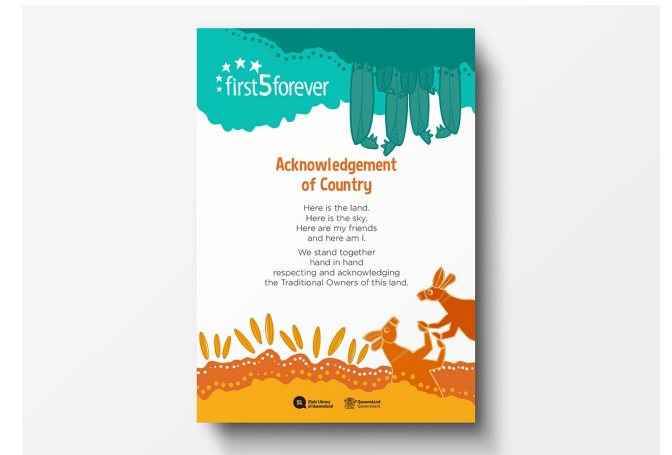


# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 2

## Reaching Queensland Families



Nyurramba Garran – ‘All Come’ | Saltwater





## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 2

*Reaching Queensland Families*

### Challenges & Opportunities

- Audience access to the First 5 Forever website clearly indicates significant Brisbane and metropolitan uptake, notwithstanding online platforms provide effective opportunities to reach families in remote and regional areas
- Enhanced audience insight data is needed to shape the creation of rich digital experiences promoting early literacy, social learning and engagement, and real-world play from the viewpoint of children and families - First 5 Forever has a crucial role in being forward-thinking and proactive re digital inclusion and citizenship for the early years
- First 5 Forever is being implemented locally to reach families in authentic ways and building on this success by sustaining core consistent messages in locally relevant ways
- Continual improvement requires State Library to work with the public library network to ensure that program content remains representative of and relevant to diverse Queensland communities including First Nations families



## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 2

### Reaching Queensland Families

#### Case Study Excerpt: Sunshine Coast

For the second year in a row Sunshine Coast Libraries committed to the ALIA Online Storytime initiative to provide online Storytime for families across the region. Weekly sessions were filmed and edited and housed on the library website. In 2021-2022, 29 sessions aired on the libraries website and YouTube channel attracting 2644 viewers with Kulin State School prep students tuning in every week for Sofa Storytime with Codie.

To ensure parents access educational materials pertaining to early literacy, two speech pathologists were hired to create speech pathology educational tip sheets for parents. These are added to each Sofa Storytime online session on the library's webpage as a way for parents to extend the title and interact with their little one with early literacy practices at home.

In November 2022, **Codie Perris** was a finalist in the StoryBox Librarian Storyteller of the Year placing second in the bi-annual award.

*We acknowledge the provision of this information through annual reporting by Scenic Rim Libraries.*





## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 3

*Collaborative local partnerships*

### Highlights

- Critical to the First 5 Forever program's success is the collaboration and key partnership between state and local government by delivering on the *Creative Together* priority 'Driving Social Change and Strengthening Communities - partnering with local government to realise the potential of libraries and IKCs as vibrant community hubs building community resilience'
- Libraries are engaging with a broad range of partners as evidenced in annual reporting and showcases
- Rich local collaborations have significant outcomes for the community as exemplified by Hinchinbrook's language project that continues to seed beyond the confines of the project
- Strong local partners and community connections are vital for increasing access to services and community outcomes for families and for small libraries with limited funding



# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 3



## *Collaborative local partnerships*

### **Case Study Excerpt: Hinchinbrook**

Hinchinbrook Shire Council took out the Community Category for the Hinchinbrook Indigenous Literacy project, funded by the First 5 Forever Innovation grant, which was the first collaboration involving Council and all three First Nations groups of the Shire – the Nywaigi, Bandjin and Warragmay peoples - to produce culturally significant resources in all three languages.

The extension of this project with the prize funding will continue to develop language resourcing for Nywaigi, Bandjin and Warragmay for the 0-5 age group. Furthermore, improved relationships between library staff and local services has helped assist the First 5 Forever program in reaching local families, resulting in an increase in attendance to weekly and monthly program sessions and library events.

*We acknowledge the provision of this information through annual reporting by Hinchinbrook Libraries.*





## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 3

*Collaborative local partnerships*

### Challenges & Opportunities

- Community partnerships are a key success outcome for First 5 Forever however the number of partnerships are decreasing post-COVID (collectively 748 partner organizations and agencies in 2021-22 compared to pre-COVID 1,253 in 2019-20)
- Many libraries are and should continue to partner with key stakeholders to enrich and broaden early childhood literacy initiatives at both statewide and local levels
- Strongly recommend using the *VicHealth partnerships analysis tool* at all public libraries and IKCs to strengthen ongoing First 5 Forever monitoring, evaluation and learning
- In order to share core consistent messages with First 5 Forever partners, collaborate to reach more families, reduce barriers for program participation and increase outcomes for families, recommendation is to combine efforts to formalize collaboration with the 102 Connect for Children Birth to Five Networks, supported by the Queensland Government (DoE)





## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 3

*Collaborative local partnerships*

### Case Study Excerpt: Burdekin

During 2022 we have partnered with our local Save the Children group 'Play2Learn Burdekin' to deliver joint programs and events including Toddler Time and National Simultaneous Storytime. Play2Learn run a playgroup session for children at the same time as our Toddler Time session, so in order for both of us to connect with new families and increase our reach we are partnering for Term 3 to deliver sessions together once a month in the Burdekin Library. So far this has been a great hit with our local families and both organisations have been able to connect with new families and share our messaging.





## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 4

*Building a capable workforce*

### Highlights

- Library staff are members of their local communities with local knowledge and relationships and are well placed to provide a stable foundation for program growth
- Library staff have been delivering First 5 Forever since 2015 with professional development in early literacy having a transformative result on services being delivered
- Professional development participation numbers have steadily increased from 334 participants from 51 councils in 2019/20 to 562 participants from 48 councils in 2021/22
- While State Library delivers a stream of building capability activity for the public library network, libraries are active and engaged in supporting staff and professional networks at a local level
- Responses to COVID-19 online building capability opportunities increased through the delivery of webinars and the creation of online modules
- Workforce capability a key success measure and critical to program success with forward plans indicating that over \$2mil of First 5 Forever grant funding was being allocated to staff wages



# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 3

*Collaborative local partnerships*

## Case Study Excerpt: Moreton Bay

Moreton Bay Region Libraries hosted Festival of Play Forum at North Lakes Library and Community Centre on Friday 14 February 2020. The Forum centred around improving learning, education and literacy through play.

Research shows that the Moreton Bay Region has a comparatively high percentage of developmentally vulnerable children compared to national averages. Moreton Bay libraries are working hard to address this issue by collaborating with leading authorities, academic experts and experienced practitioners.





## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview: Objective 4

*Building a capable workforce*

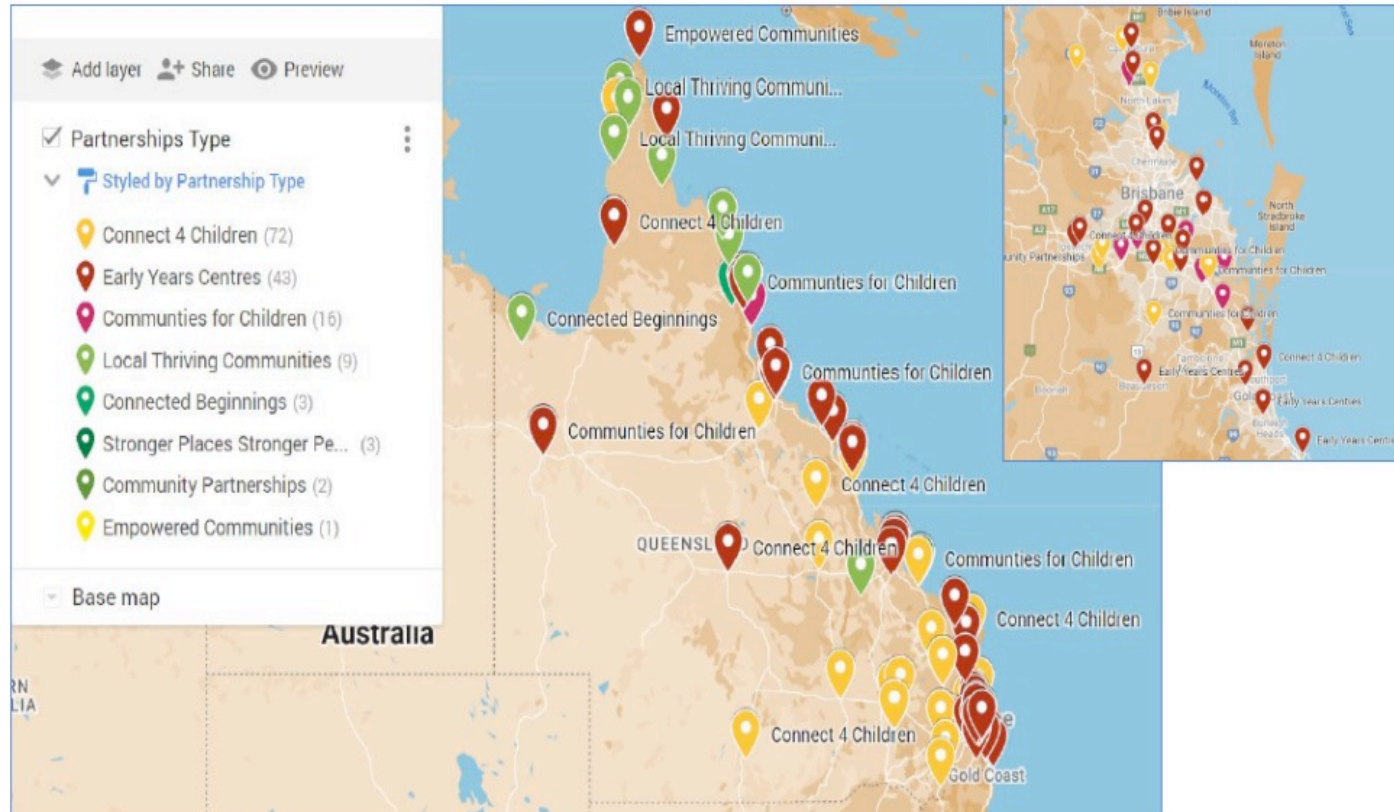
### Challenges & Opportunities

- Current professional development content focused on the ‘Increased access to early literacy experiences’ First 5 Forever success measure and has built early literacy knowledge in the workforce providing a strong foundation for program growth
- With only 48 councils participating in professional development, considerable scope for professional development opportunities that attract more public library network involvement
- Recommend restructuring professional development for First 5 Forever personnel to align with the Program’s four objectives more directly:
  - i) Increasing access to early literacy experiences*  
Content needs to reflect diversity of ways First 5 Forever can be delivered locally
  - ii) Reaching Queensland Families*  
Adapting core messages for local communities; targeted outreach for vulnerable communities
  - iii) Collaborative local partnerships*  
Know your community, build community ambassadors
  - iv) Building a capable workforce*  
Using AEDC data & leveraging partners/partner content for professional learning



# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Thriving Child-Friendly Communities





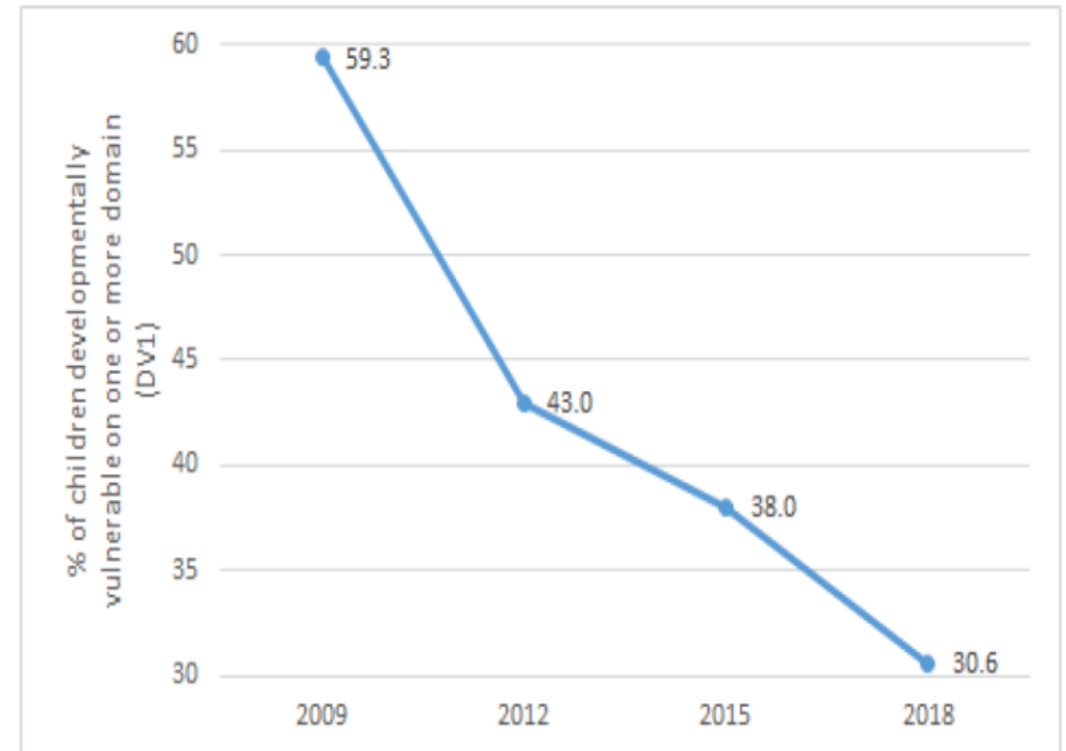
# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Thriving Child-Friendly Communities

AEDC 2020 focus report on three successful Queensland communities (Acacia Ridge, Deception Bay, Jondaryan) key factors:

- Effective partnerships and cross-sector collaboration
- Evidence-based planning and research informed approaches
- Community engagement

Figure 1: DV1 AEDC Rocklea-Acacia Ridge community data across all collections to date





# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)



### **Physical health and wellbeing**

Children's physical readiness for the school day, physical independence and gross and fine motor skills.



### **Social competence**

Children's overall social competence, responsibility and respect, approach to learning and readiness to explore new things.



### **Emotional maturity**

Children's pro-social and helping behaviours and absence of anxious and fearful behaviour, aggressive behaviour and hyperactivity and inattention.



### **Language and cognitive skills (school-based)**

Children's basic literacy, advanced literacy, basic numeracy, and interest in literacy, numeracy and memory.



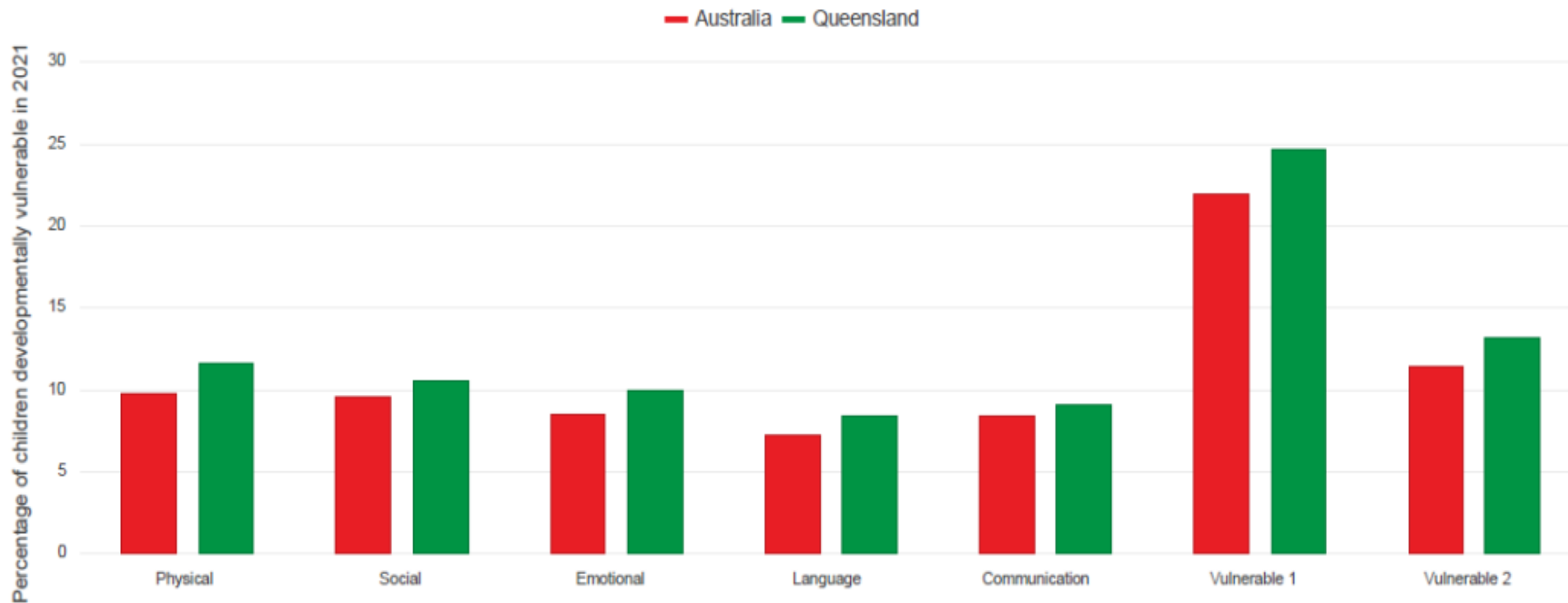
### **Communication skills and general knowledge**

Children's communication skills and general knowledge based on broad developmental competencies and skills.



# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)



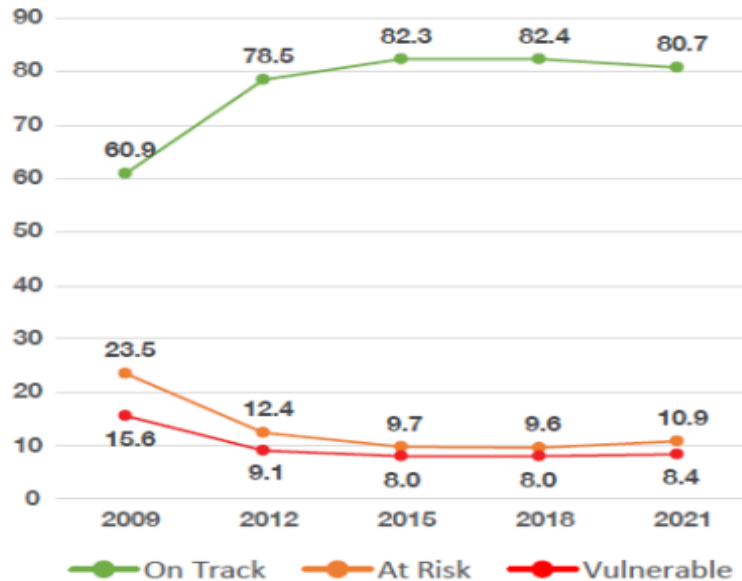




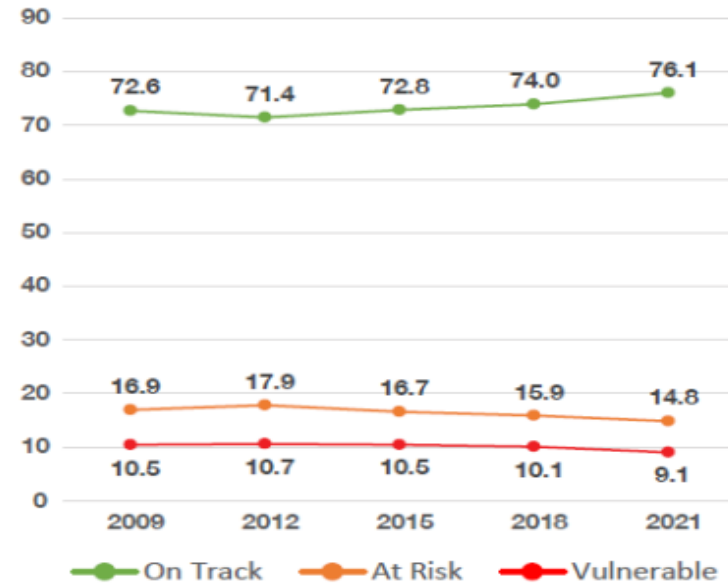
# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

**Figure 6: Percentage of Queensland children developmentally on track, at risk and vulnerable on the language and cognitive skills (school-based) domain**



**Figure 7: Percentage of Queensland children developmentally on track, at risk and vulnerable on the communication skills and general knowledge domain**





# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

*Table 8: Percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children developmentally vulnerable in QLD (2021)*

Domain	2009	2012	2015	2018	2021
Physical health and wellbeing	19.8	19.1	21.8	21.2	21.3 ■
Social competence	20.2	19.1	21.8	20.5	18.8 ▼
Emotional maturity	17.3	14.8	17.2	16.9	16.3 ■
Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	35.6	21.8	19.6	20.8	21.6 ▲
Communication skills and general knowledge	21.5	20.8	21.6	20.6	19.1 ▼
Developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain(s)	50.5	43.0	43.9	42.5	42.1 ■
Developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains	31.3	25.8	27.5	27.0	26.9 ■



# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Australian Early Development Census (AEDC): Deep Diving

	Number of children	Number and Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable(N (%))													
		Physical health and wellbeing	%	Social competence	%	Emotional maturity	%	Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	%	Communication skills and general knowledge	%	Vulnerable on one or more domains of the	%	Vulnerable on two or more domains of the AEDC	%
<b>Australia</b>	305,015	28,341	9.3%	27,788	9.1%	24,271	8.0%	21,107	6.9%	24,064	7.9%	63,264	20.7%	32,718	10.7%
<b>Queensland</b>	64,983	7,148	11.0%	6,536	10.1%	6,110	9.4%	5,127	7.9%	5,596	8.6%	15,143	23.3%	8,088	12.4%
North West Total	437	50	11.4%	45	10.3%	47	10.8%	71	16.2%	46	10.5%	121	27.7%	70	16.0%
Far North Total	3,656	484	13.2%	457	12.5%	413	11.3%	412	11.3%	438	12.0%	1026	28.1%	599	16.4%
Fitzroy Total	3,219	416	12.9%	632	19.6%	366	11.4%	347	10.8%	316	9.8%	869	27.0%	482	15.0%
South West Total	351	49	14.0%	38	10.8%	36	10.3%	37	10.5%	39	11.1%	97	27.6%	51	14.5%
Wide Bay-Burnett Total	3,287	485	14.8%	399	12.1%	354	10.8%	339	10.3%	348	10.6%	931	28.3%	515	15.7%
Darling Downs Total	3,206	458	14.3%	359	11.2%	337	10.5%	324	10.1%	340	10.6%	852	26.6%	477	14.9%
Northern Total	3,142	454	14.4%	399	12.7%	344	10.9%	313	10.0%	335	10.7%	904	28.8%	495	15.8%
Central West Total	105	14	13.3%	6	5.7%	6	5.7%	10	9.5%	7	6.7%	23	21.9%	11	10.5%
Mackay Total	2,502	288	11.5%	253	10.1%	250	10.0%	228	9.1%	190	7.6%	575	23.0%	320	12.8%
Brisbane-SEQld Total	30050	3078	10.2%	2937	9.8%	2704	9.0%	2133	7.1%	2526	8.4%	6746	22.4%	3545	11.8%
West Moreton Total	2,507	287	11.4%	239	9.5%	215	8.6%	166	6.6%	192	7.7%	569	22.7%	302	12.0%
Gold Coast Total	7,950	707	8.9%	687	8.6%	660	8.3%	464	5.8%	560	7.0%	1589	20.0%	815	10.3%
Sunshine Coast Total	4,374	342	7.8%	316	7.2%	344	7.9%	236	5.4%	223	5.1%	776	17.7%	366	8.4%



## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

### Australian Early Development Census (AEDC): Deep Diving

<b>North West</b>			
Carpentaria	24	5	20.8%
Flinders	22	4	18.2%
Mt Isa	328	57	17.4%
Cloncurry-McKinlay	63	5	7.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>16.2%</b>

A deeper dive into this regional data for the North West shows further diversity across the region with Cloncurry-McKinlay at the state average for this domain.



## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

### Thriving Child-Friendly Communities: Place-Based Approaches

- 16 x Communities for Children initiatives, funded by the Commonwealth (through DSS). These include initiatives in Cairns South, Townsville, Logan, Ipswich inner, Beenleigh, Forest Lake/Oxley, Gladstone, Jimboomba, Loganlea/Carbrook, Deception Bay/Narangba/Burpengary, Ormeau/Oxenford, Rockhampton, Innisfail/Cassowary Coast, Browns Plains, Springfield/Redbank, Springwood/Kingston, Outback North
- 2 x Stronger Places, Stronger People, jointly funded by Commonwealth (DSS) and the Queensland Government (DCHDE). These are Logan Together and Gladstone
- 102 x **Connect for Children Birth to Five Networks**, supported by the Qld Government (DoE)
- 5 x Connected Beginnings, supported by the Commonwealth Government (DESE & DoH) in collaboration with the Qld Government. These are in Doomadgee, Rassmussen, Mareeba, Mackay & Eagleby
- Local Thriving Communities initiatives, supported by the Qld Government (DSDSATSIP)
- Local Level Alliances and Regional Child, Youth and Family Committees, supported by the Qld Government (DCYJMA)
- Empowered Communities, supported by the Cwlth (NIAA). The one initiative in Queensland is in Cape York.
- 144 Neighbourhood and Community Centres, supported by the Qld Government Thriving Qld Communities Grants program (DCHDE), many of whom have a child, youth and/or family focus.



## First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

### Thriving Child-Friendly Communities: Key Themes



Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership (TQKP) has been engaging people involved in a range of child-focused place-based initiatives across the state to explore their experiences and insights with systems, and what might be done to address those barriers and enablers.

#### **Key common themes have emerged so far including the need for:**

- Greater recognition of local efforts and achievements
- Greater support for local innovation and integration
- Better connections with decision-makers and influencers
- Better connections and sharing across and between the child-focused, place-based initiatives
- Stronger input to and alignment with state and national efforts
- Greater effort to address systems barriers.

### Vision

All children and youth are loved and safe, have material basics, are healthy, are learning and are participating and have a positive sense of culture and identity.

*Measured by Australia being consistently placed in the top third of OECD countries for comparable indicators of child and youth wellbeing, with the target of 50% of indicators in the top third by 2025 (currently 26%)*

Loved and safe	Material basics	Healthy	Learning	Participating
Positive, supportive family environment	Material wellbeing	Healthy birthweight	Early childhood education participation	Youth feeling able to have a say
Positive parenting practices	Income equality	Immunisation rates	Reduced early childhood developmental vulnerability	Voting enrolment
Positive, trusted peer relationships and communication	Parental employment	Nutrition, activity and healthy weight	Parental engagement in child learning	Use and engagement of technology and social media
Community safety	Youth in employment/training/education	Healthy physical development	Performance in English, Maths and Science (at Year 4 and 15 years)	Involvement in organised activities
Children not placed in care	Internet access	Dental health	School retention rates	Membership of social, community, or civic groups
Youth not in detention	Educational possessions	Good mental health	Youth participation in education	
	Housing amenity and stability	Reduced injury deaths		
		Reductions in teenage pregnancies		
		Reduced substance use		
		Reduced youth violence		

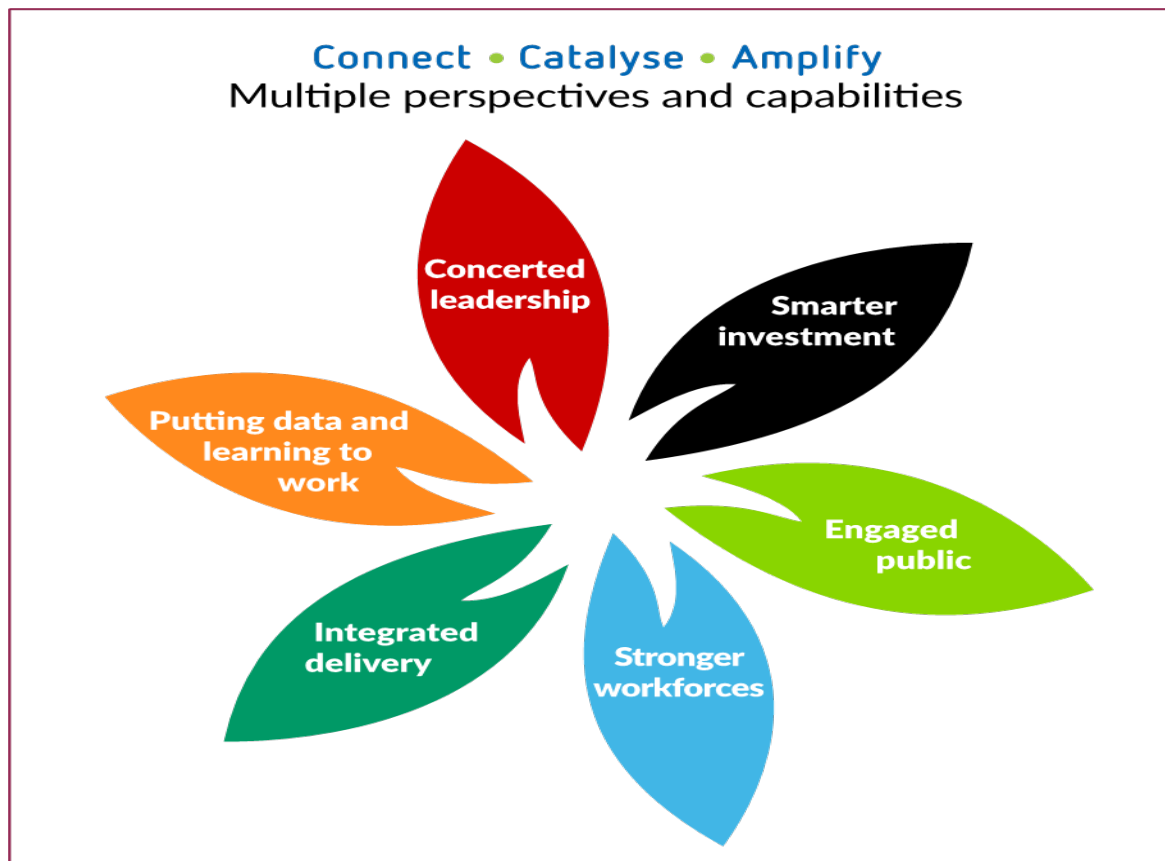
Positive sense of culture and identity

*The Nest* Logic Model  
(from Action Agenda)



# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Thriving Child-Friendly Communities







# First 5 Forever Evaluation Overview

## Thriving Child-Friendly Communities

# Creative Together 2020-2030

A 10-Year Roadmap for  
arts, culture and creativity  
in Queensland



## OUR FUTURE STATE ADVANCING QUEENSLAND'S PRIORITIES





---

Dr Geoff Woolcock

---

Senior Research Fellow

(Regional Community Development)

---

E: [Geoffrey.woolcock@usq.edu.au](mailto:Geoffrey.woolcock@usq.edu.au)

---

M: 0407 837 707

Thank you