

Western Australian Child Development Atlas: Geo-spatially mapping data on child health, education, development and well-being.

**Ms Emma Fuller**<sup>1</sup>, Dr Megan Bell<sup>1</sup>, Mr Scott Sims<sup>1</sup>, Dr Rebecca Glauert<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Telethon Kids Institute, Perth, Australia*

Parallel Session 3A, Grand Ballroom 1-4, November 20, 2019, 13:30 - 15:00

### **Western Australian Child Development Atlas: Geo-spatially mapping data on child health, education, development and well-being.**

**Fuller, E<sup>1</sup>**, Bell, M<sup>1</sup>, Sims, S<sup>1</sup>, Glauert R<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *Telethon Kids Institute, Perth, Australia*

#### **Background**

The WA Child Development Atlas is the first resource of its kind in Australia to map population-level data within different geographic boundaries, enabling the geographic profiles of the development, health and well-being of WA children to be obtained with a click of a button. The Atlas has been developed at the Telethon Kids Institute with funding from the Ian Potter and Minderoo Foundations and in partnership with government agencies and service providers.

#### **Objectives**

Visualisation of data within geographic boundaries helps to build a picture of 'place', informing better decision making and underpinning the development of evidence-based policy and service planning that acknowledges the differing needs of communities.

#### **Method**

The Atlas is an online, interactive mapping tool that utilises geographic information system (GIS) technologies to identify and investigate spatial patterns in population-level child and youth development indicators and create community profiles. Data are sourced from core health, social, and linked administrative datasets, from 1990 onwards. Aggregated, de-identified data on children and young people (0-24 years) and their parents are mapped within geographic boundaries across WA.

#### **Results**

The Atlas is a freely available, confidential and secure resource that enables enhanced knowledge and understanding of the development of children in WA. Features of the Atlas include: it is online and interactive (no software required), area profiles, downloadable charts, tables and summary statistics, map planning and zooming.

#### **Conclusions (if applicable)**

The Atlas has built significant capacity to use spatial information created by agencies who make decisions relevant to child development and to facilitate cross-agency collaboration.