



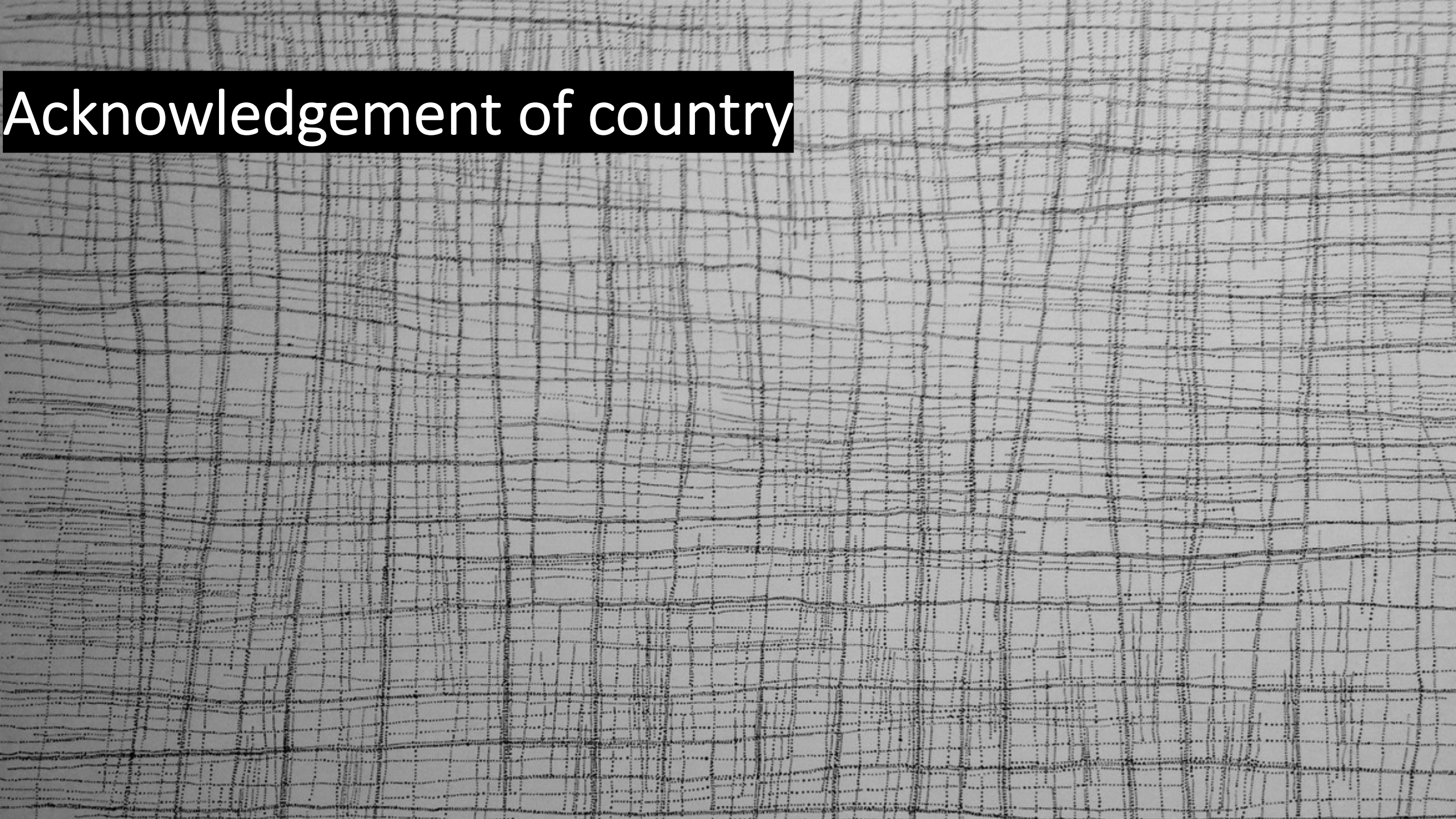
University of the
Sunshine Coast
Australia



Bright spot proposal: Local Play- Every Day!

By Dr Greg Mews

Acknowledgement of country





Working definition:
Equity in health and wellbeing
in sustainable development

“All groups, especially those who have been under-resourced, have power and agency over, and access to, environments and opportunities that support and enhance health and wellbeing today and for future generations.”



Bright Spot proposal: Local Play – Every Day!

Logan Together

Logan Together is a **place-based initiative and Collective Impact Community Development model** aimed at taking a coordinated approach to tackle the health and wellbeing concerns of children aged 0 to 8 in Logan. This is done in many ways, including supporting children's physical literacy and physical development through enhancing conditions and opportunities for Play (the work of childhood).

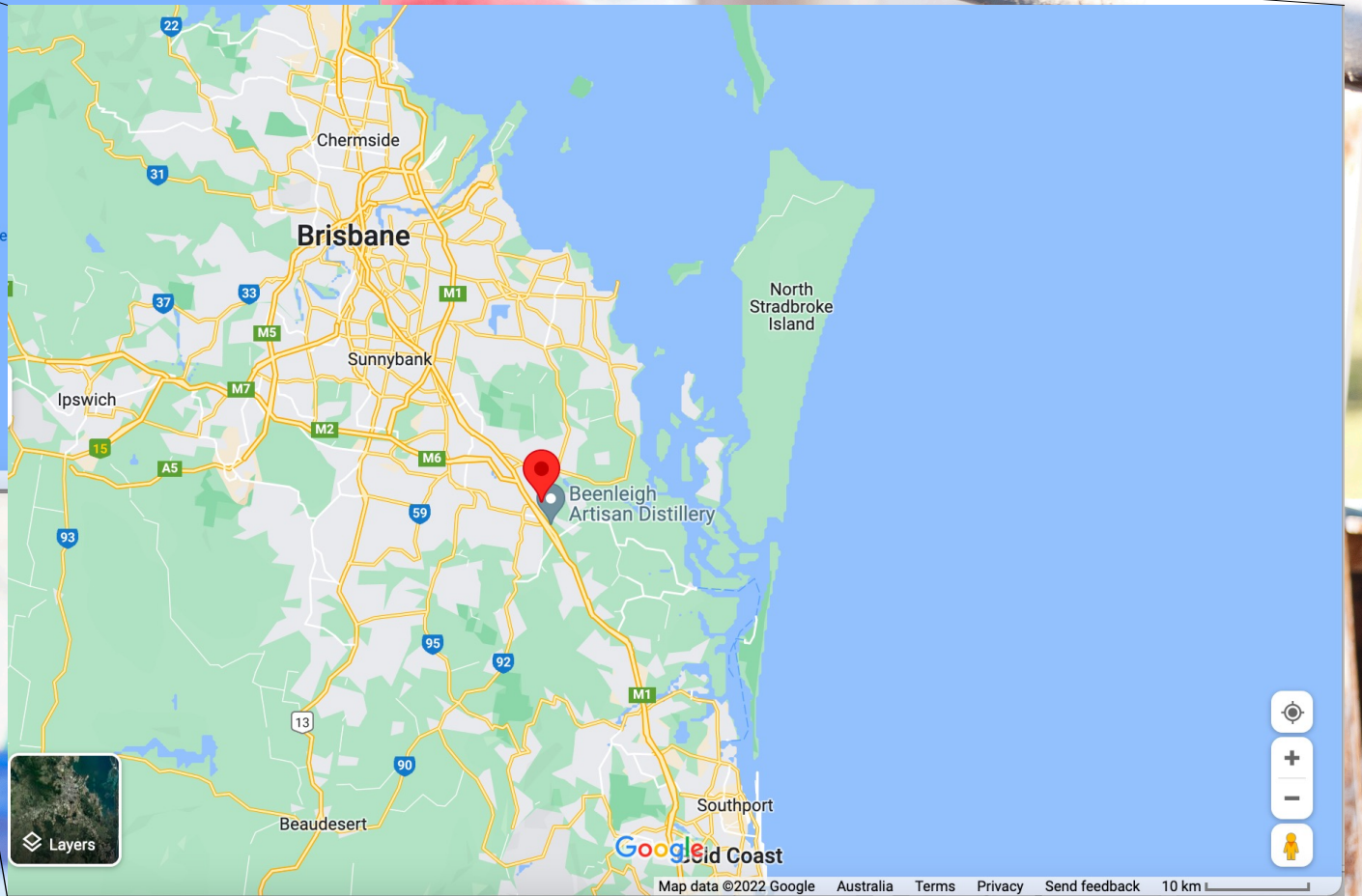
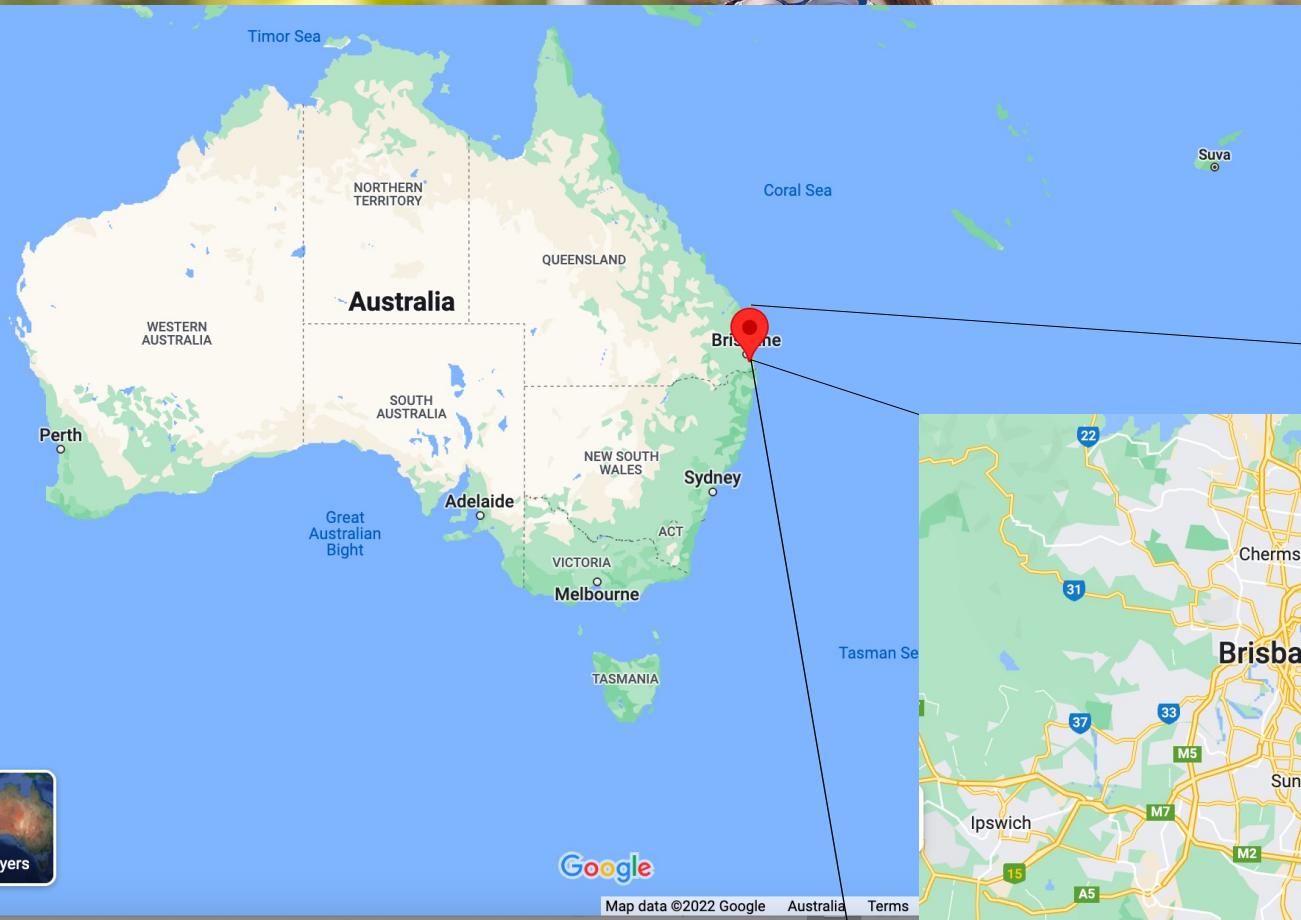
In 2020 Logan Together partnered with Queensland Governments Department of Sport and Recreation to deliver on the Queensland Governments new strategy 'Activate' and the correlating new place-based approach to increase movement and physical activity in children, called '**Community Active Partnership**'. The aim was to **co-create solutions with the community and support community to take the lead in addressing the health concerns for their children.**

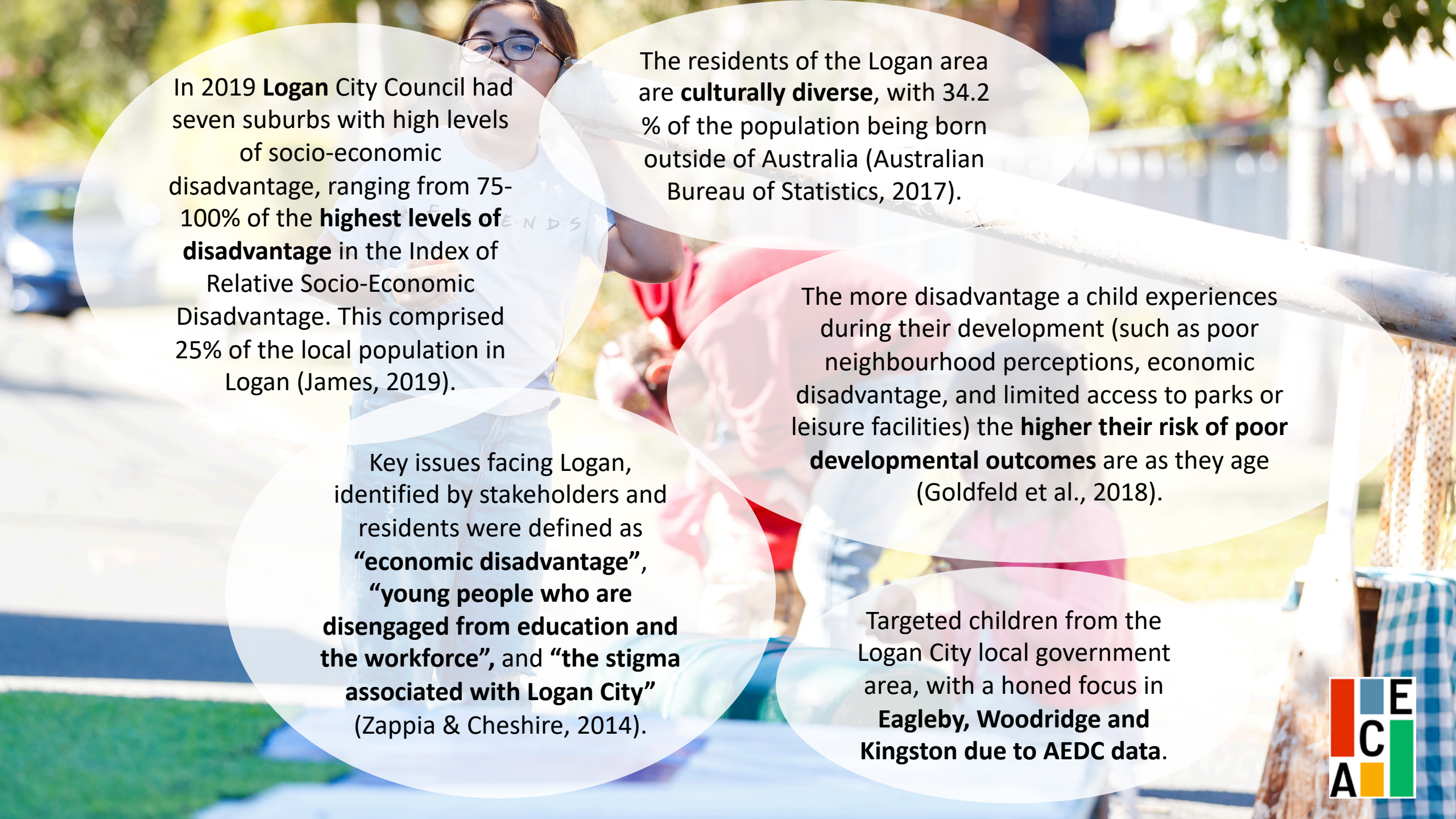


AIP (Australian Institute of Play)

AIP purpose is to promote, enable and protect Australian **children's right to play** and to support children to have a **voice for their play**, especially where they live. The organisation aims to **secure child-led free play to build resilience and wellbeing for and with children**, where play is not a privilege. Evidence demonstrates that play is many things to children, including an intervention tool for **health, wellbeing, efficacy, and life satisfaction.**







In 2019 **Logan** City Council had seven suburbs with high levels of socio-economic disadvantage, ranging from 75-100% of the **highest levels of disadvantage** in the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage. This comprised 25% of the local population in Logan (James, 2019).

The residents of the Logan area are **culturally diverse**, with 34.2 % of the population being born outside of Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

The more disadvantage a child experiences during their development (such as poor neighbourhood perceptions, economic disadvantage, and limited access to parks or leisure facilities) the **higher their risk of poor developmental outcomes** are as they age (Goldfeld et al., 2018).

Key issues facing Logan, identified by stakeholders and residents were defined as **“economic disadvantage”**, **“young people who are disengaged from education and the workforce”**, and **“the stigma associated with Logan City”** (Zappia & Cheshire, 2014).

Targeted children from the Logan City local government area, with a honed focus in **Eagleby, Woodridge and Kingston** due to AEDC data.

Developmental Domain	Logan		Australia	
	At risk	Vulnerable	At risk	Vulnerable
Physical health and wellbeing	15.5 %	15.8 %	12.3 %	9.6 %
Social	17.3 %	14.6 %	14.4 %	9.8 %
Emotional	17.3 %	12.4 %	14.5 %	8.4 %
Language	11.5 %	10.1 %	9.0 %	6.6 %
Communication	18.3 %	12.8 %	14.5 %	8.2 %
Children vulnerable 1 or more domains		31.0 %		21.7 %
Children vulnerable 2 or more domains		17.5 %		11.0 %

Retrieved from Australian Early Development Census, 2022



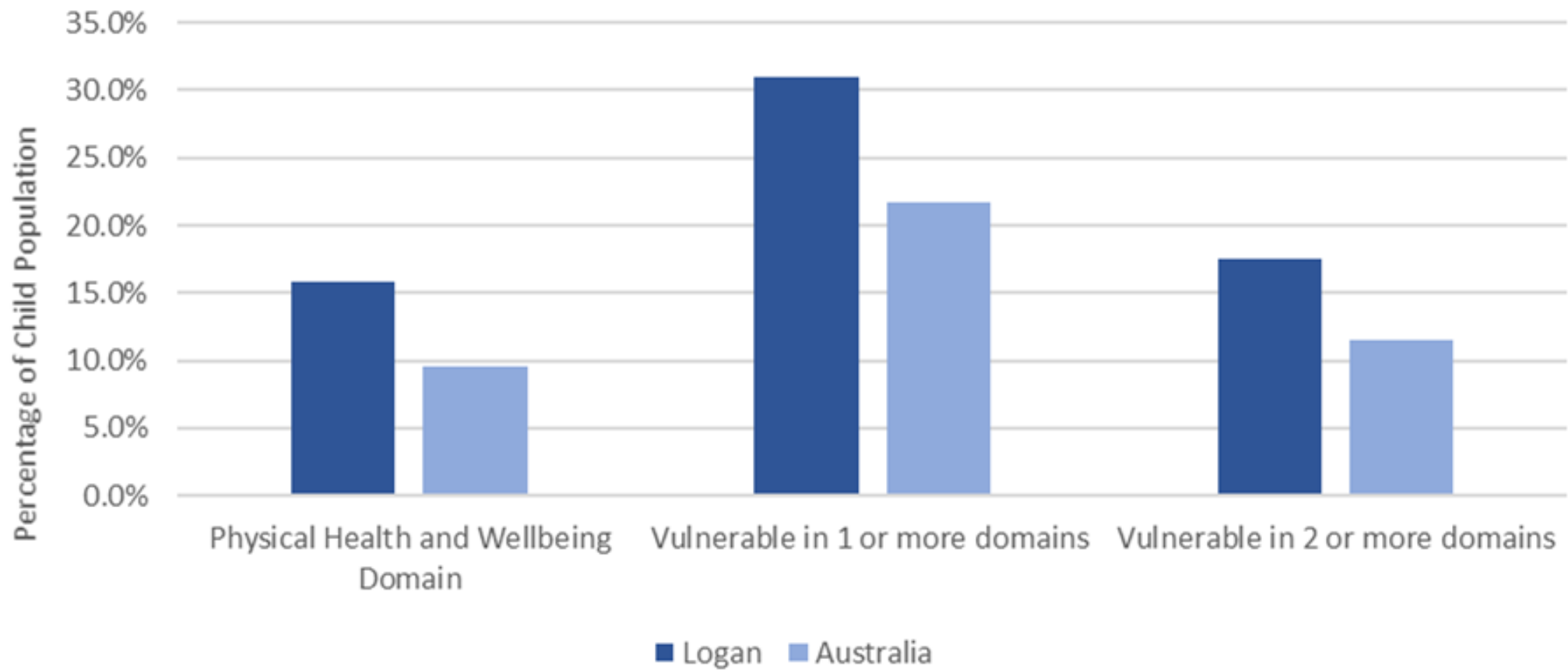


Figure 1: Developmentally vulnerable children in Logan versus Australia (2018)

Neighbourhood Story NOW

Throughout The Neighbourhood Play Project, we found that there were a lot of factors that prevented children from playing in their neighbourhood. We've created a comprehensive image on the state of our current neighbourhood story. These are our neighbourhoods. **Is this the story unfolding in your neighbourhood?**

parental fear

social distrust, neighbourhood stigma and traffic concerns were the most significant barriers to neighbourhood play

negative

media messaging and social media increased social anxiety and isolation

mental health

and social-emotional wellbeing of their children is a big concern for parents

unfamiliar

children are not familiar with any spaces outside the home within their neighbourhood

children

are not familiar with any spaces within their neighbourhood

widespread

removal of children from the neighbourhood by parents resulting in an extensive disconnect between kids for play

distrusting

children live in fear of the outside world with the threat they could be stolen at any time

disconnection

children are unsure on where to find other local children

housing

backyard sizes have reduced, reducing the capacity of them being a long-term children's outdoor play resource and connection zone

shut out

by electric garage doors, reducing the connections between neighbours

contradicting

thoughts from parents concerned with children not being able to access the neighbourhood for play, but at the same time not allowing their children out to play due to fear

loneliness

and feeling socially isolated were some of the mental health indicators of children in the neighbourhood

digital

screens become a child's companion. Children create digital neighbourhoods where screens fill the gap of real friends

empty neighbourhood



Neighbourhood Story NOW

Throughout The Neighbourhood Play Project, we found that there were a lot of factors that prevented children from playing in their neighbourhood. Our journey helped two neighbourhoods change their neighbourhood story and created neighbourhoods based on play.
Will you do this in your neighbourhood?

empowered

local parents to take the lead and create the opportunity for parents to experience local agency and ownership

supported

parents to openly discuss their concerns with each other and work on ideas to address them

ongoing

communication channels were established between local parents to support more neighbourhood play

familiarised

the children with their local play areas in their neighbourhood

uncovered

a process to collaboratively bring parents together to rebuild play for local children

revived

the narrative that the neighbourhood is a great place to source local friends for local play

experienced

the play value of the neighbourhood to use as a tool for connection

positive

views were created within children and their parents about their neighbourhood

strong

language was established surrounding the benefits of local neighbourhood play

regular

local play became easier to access once kids were shown how

foundations

were established for residents to build a new dominant neighbourhood play narrative

connected

a group of local children and parents for neighbourhood play and companions

observed

neighbourhood play as a strong source of physical activity and physical literacy

developed

an understanding of the barriers of neighbourhood play

new neighbourhood story



Implementation



Goal

Engage, coordinate and collaborate between local community, local government departments, existing activity providers, kindy to prep groups and other physical activity providers, to facilitate play-based supportive activities for local children and families.

Child voice framework

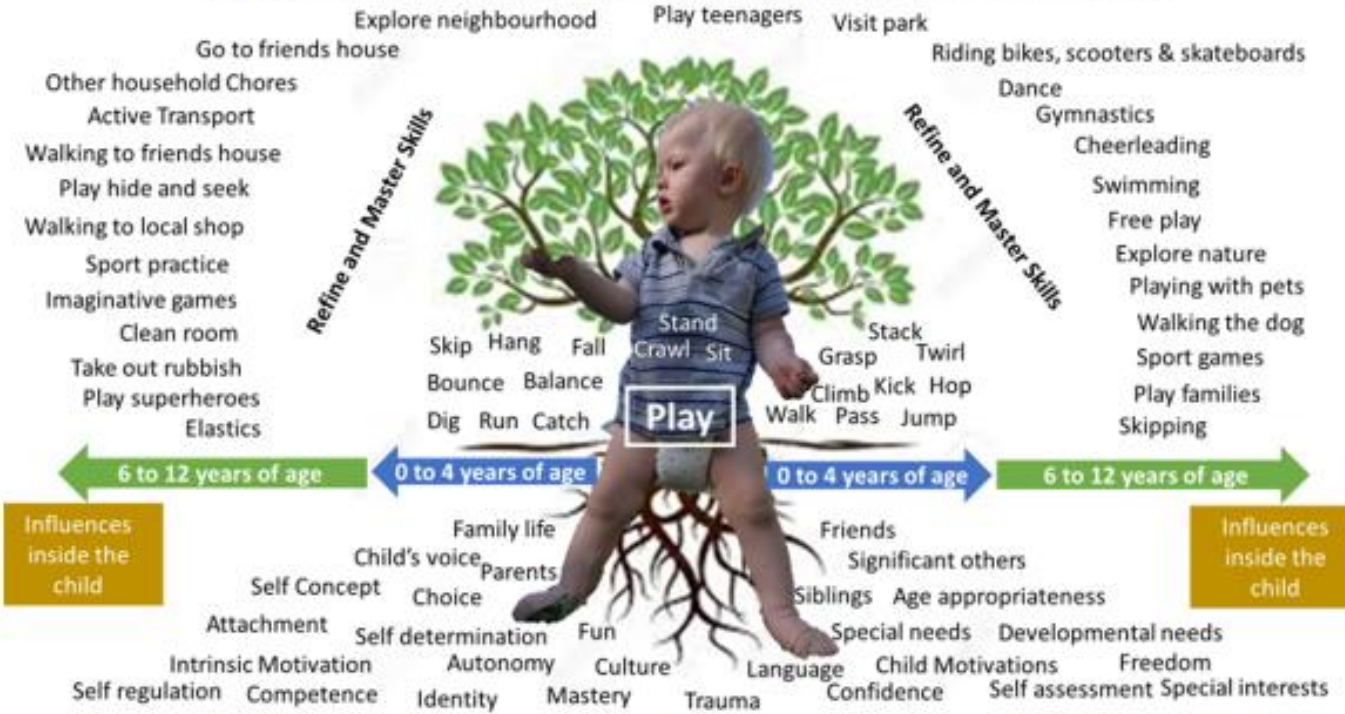
A principled framework for children and young people's participation as valued citizens and learners lays out some guiding principles for running consultations with children (Harris & Manatkis, 2013), they are:

- Viewing the child as a valued citizen and social actor
- Appropriateness of engagement
- Respect for the child
- Shared understanding of purpose
- Handing the agenda to the child
- Being mindful of power disparities
- Ethical considerations

Implementation

Community Active Partnership Program will be defined by: Dimension of Physical Activity for Children

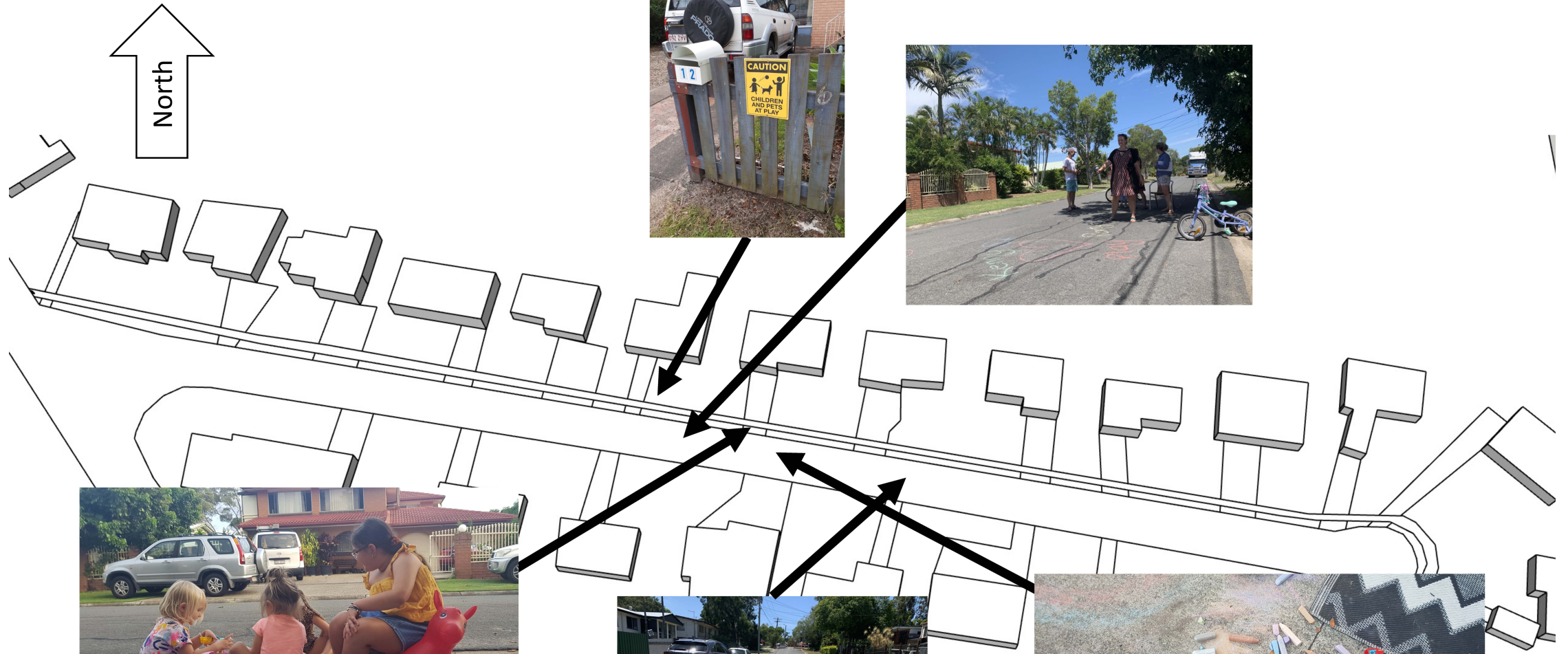
- SPACE FOR P.A.**
- Neighbourhood
 - School
 - Kindergarten
 - Day care
 - Childcare
 - Backyard
 - Front yard
 - Footpath
 - Driveway
 - Lounge room
 - Kitchen
 - Bedroom
 - Hall way
 - Local clubs & associations
 - Vacant lots
 - Garage
 - Commercial play providers



- SPACE FOR P.A.**
- House
 - Unit
 - Complex
 - Apartment
 - Park
 - Playground
 - Greenspace
 - Creeks
 - Beach
 - Mothers group
 - Playgroups
 - Community organisations
 - Commercial play spaces
 - Street







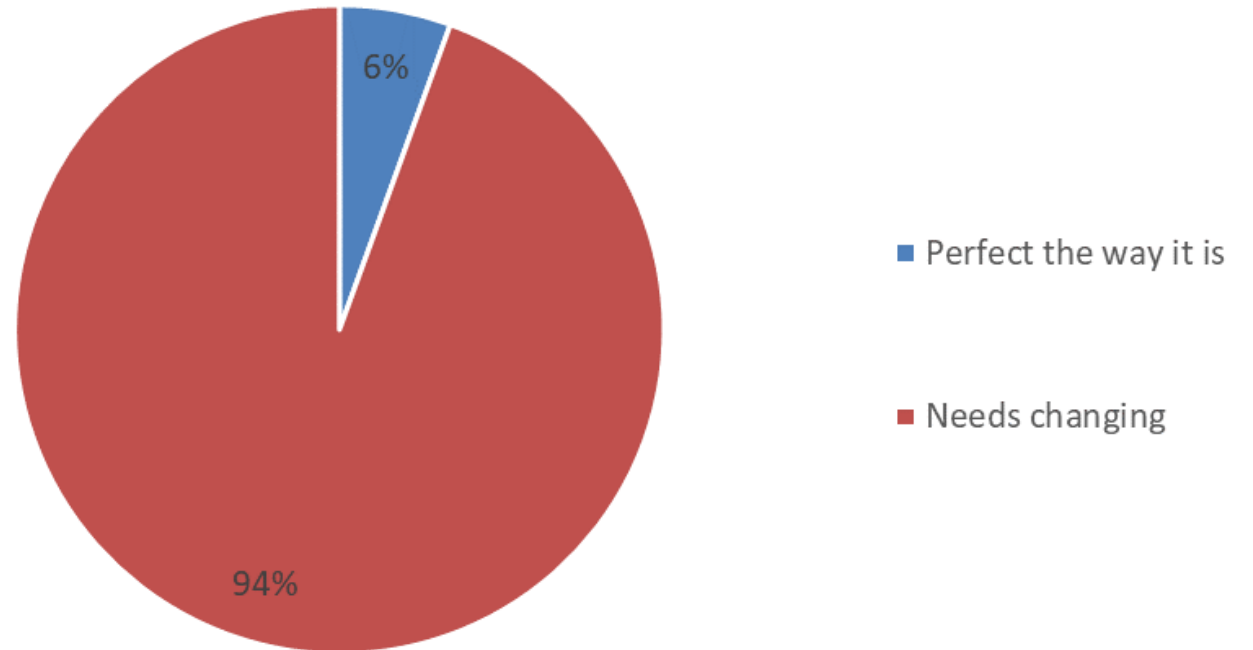
Progress and results

Indicators

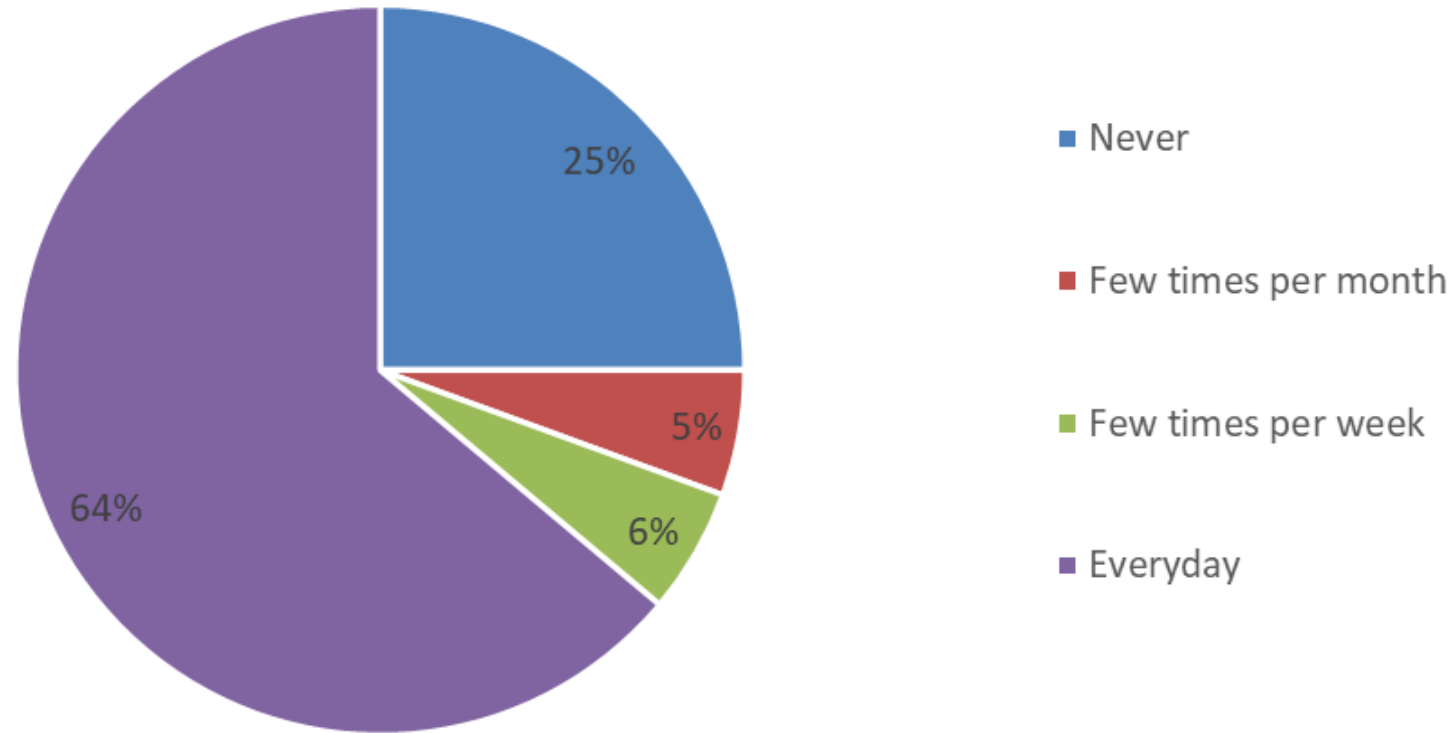
- Increased focus on **benefits of active play for developing the physical literacy of children aged 0 to 8**. Increased physical activity in children 0-8, support all areas of childhood development across this age group, support cohesion and connectivity within these communities.
- Engage, coordinate and collaborate between local community members to support **establishing/growing local neighbourhood play networks**.
- **Three neighbourhood play networks every 6 months** (potential of 20-30 children within each neighbourhood). One neighbourhood play network in key each area. 15 neighbourhood play networks across 3 years involving 500 Logan children and their families, with potential long-term sustainable neighbourhood play narratives.
- **Ongoing local play friend networks**; daily access for local active play; enhance connectivity, cohesiveness, friendliness and perceptions of safety within local neighbourhoods; enhanced local awareness of the importance of local play networks for children; support local children's physical literacy development; support local children's physical activity; support all areas childhood development across this age group.



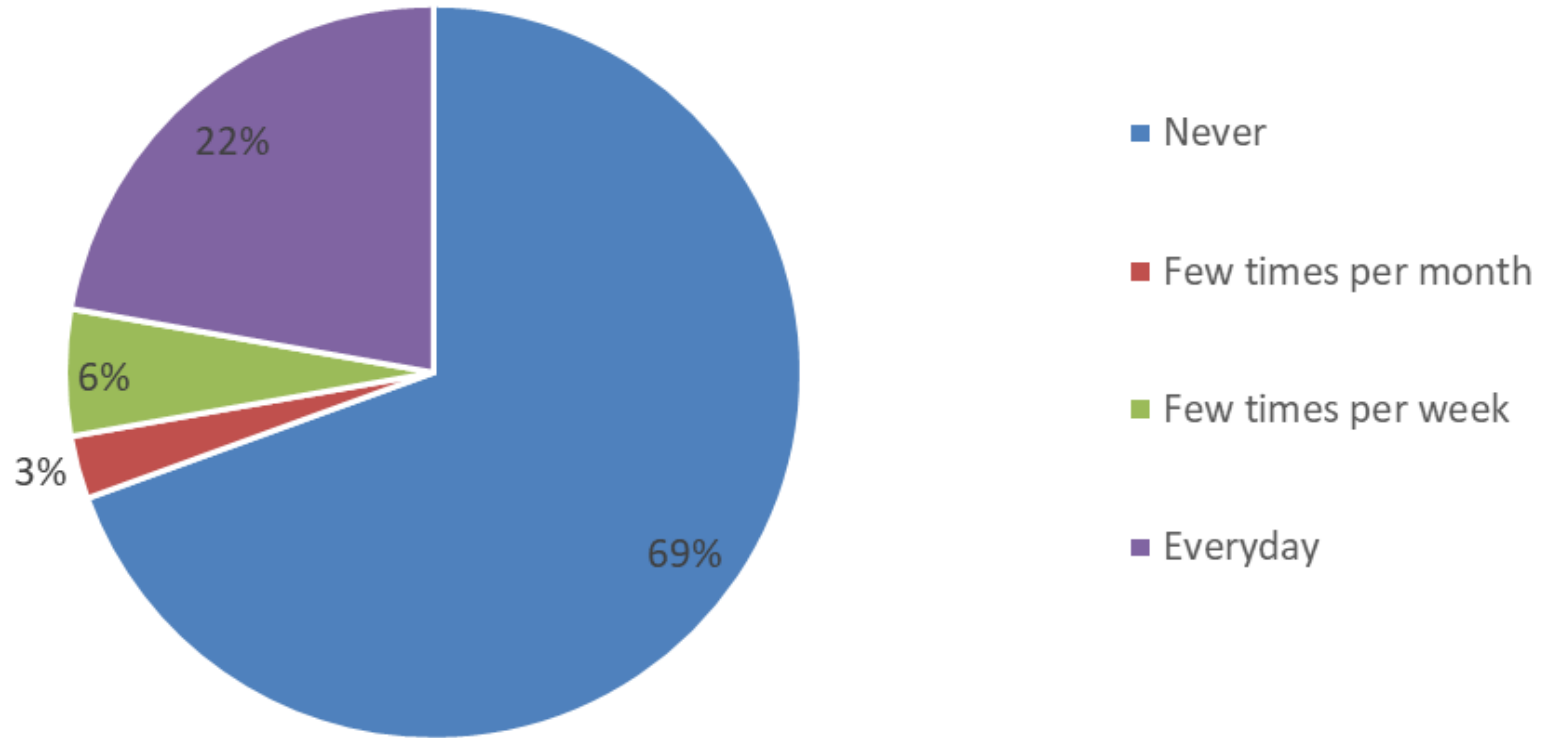
Eagleby children's responses to the question "Does your neighbourhood need changing or is it perfect the way it is?"



Eagleby children's responses to the question "How often would you like to play in the neighbourhood with friends?"



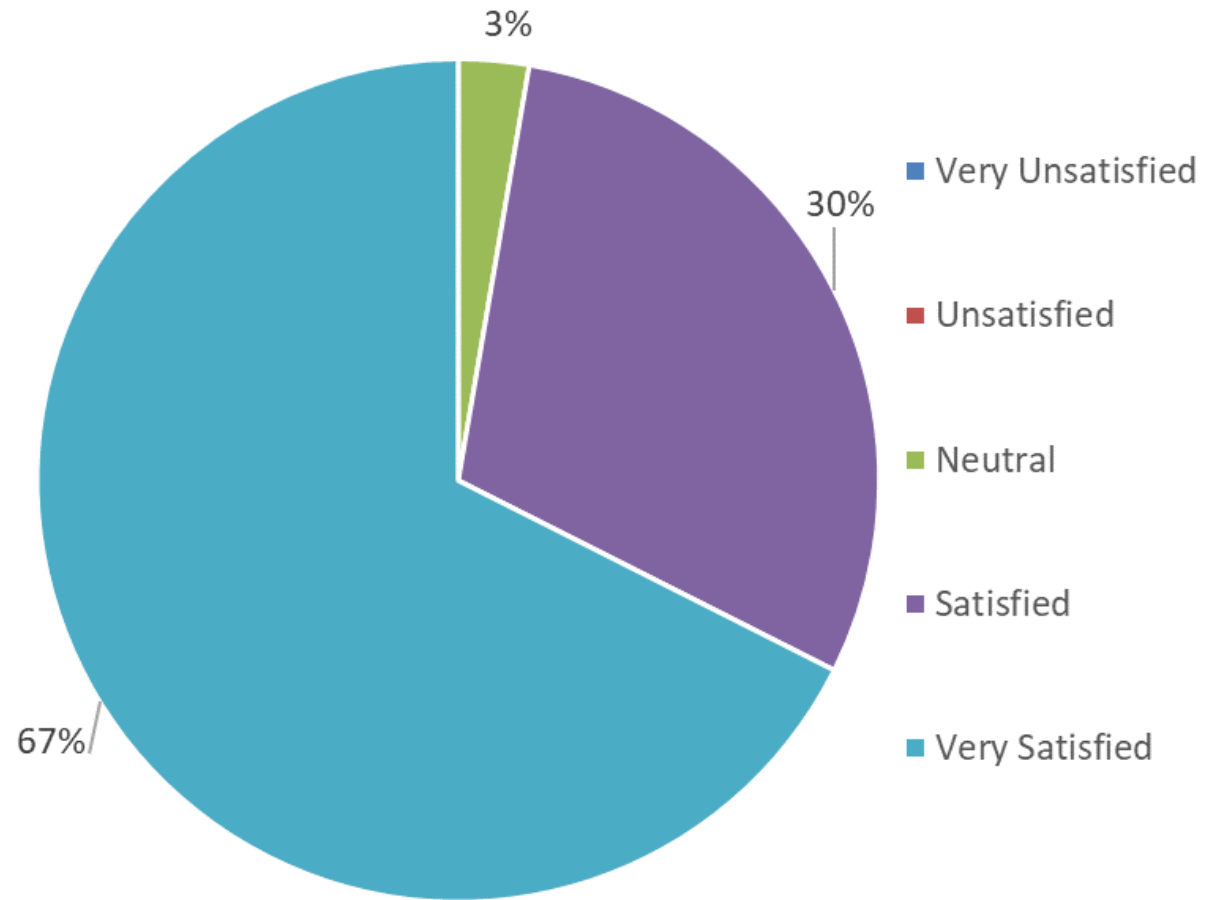
Eagleby children's responses to the question "How often do you play outdoors in your neighbourhood?"



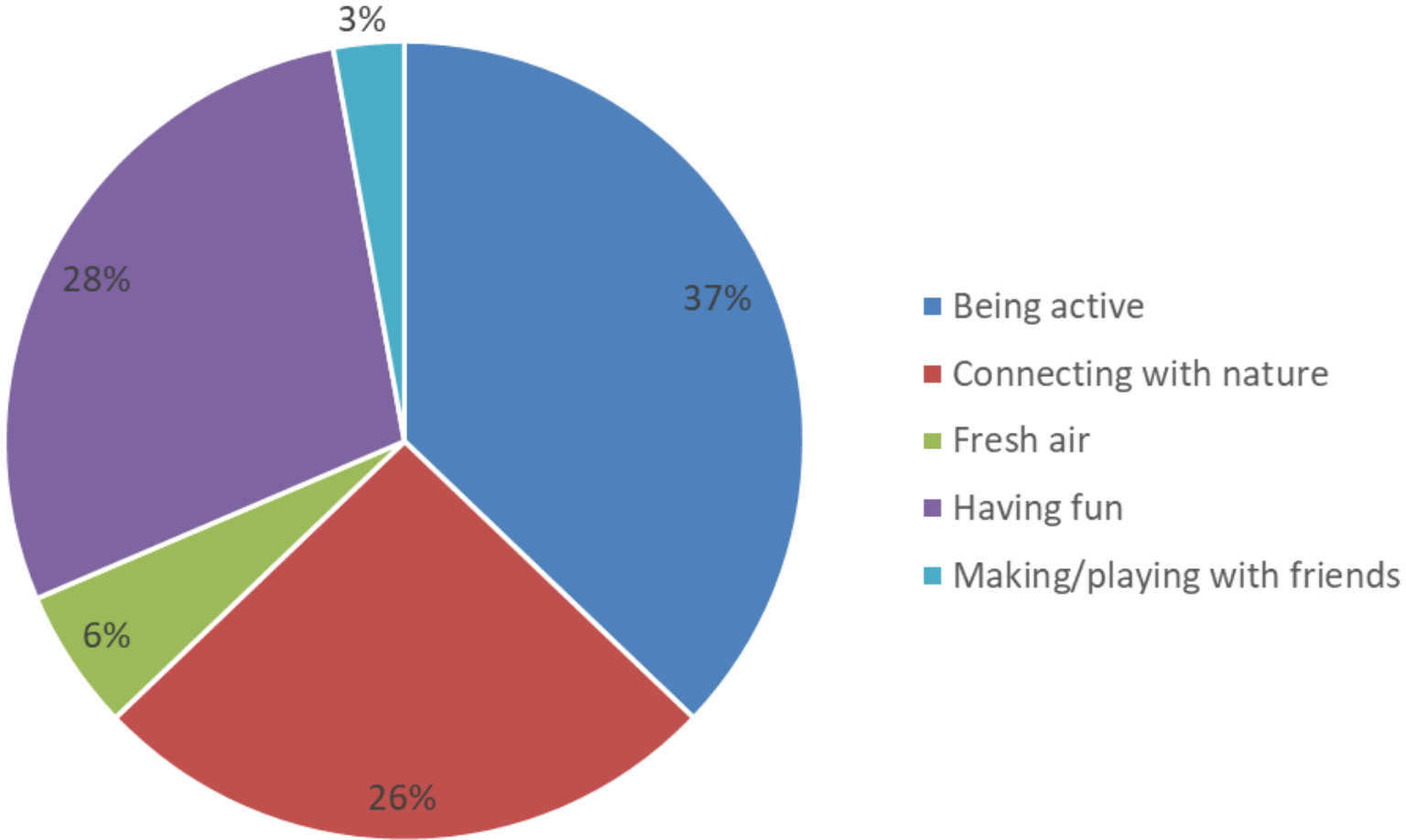



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkXsk3Fw3gQ>

Parent's satisfaction with the Under 8s Play event



Parent's response to the question "What do you think is the most important reason for children to play outdoors?"

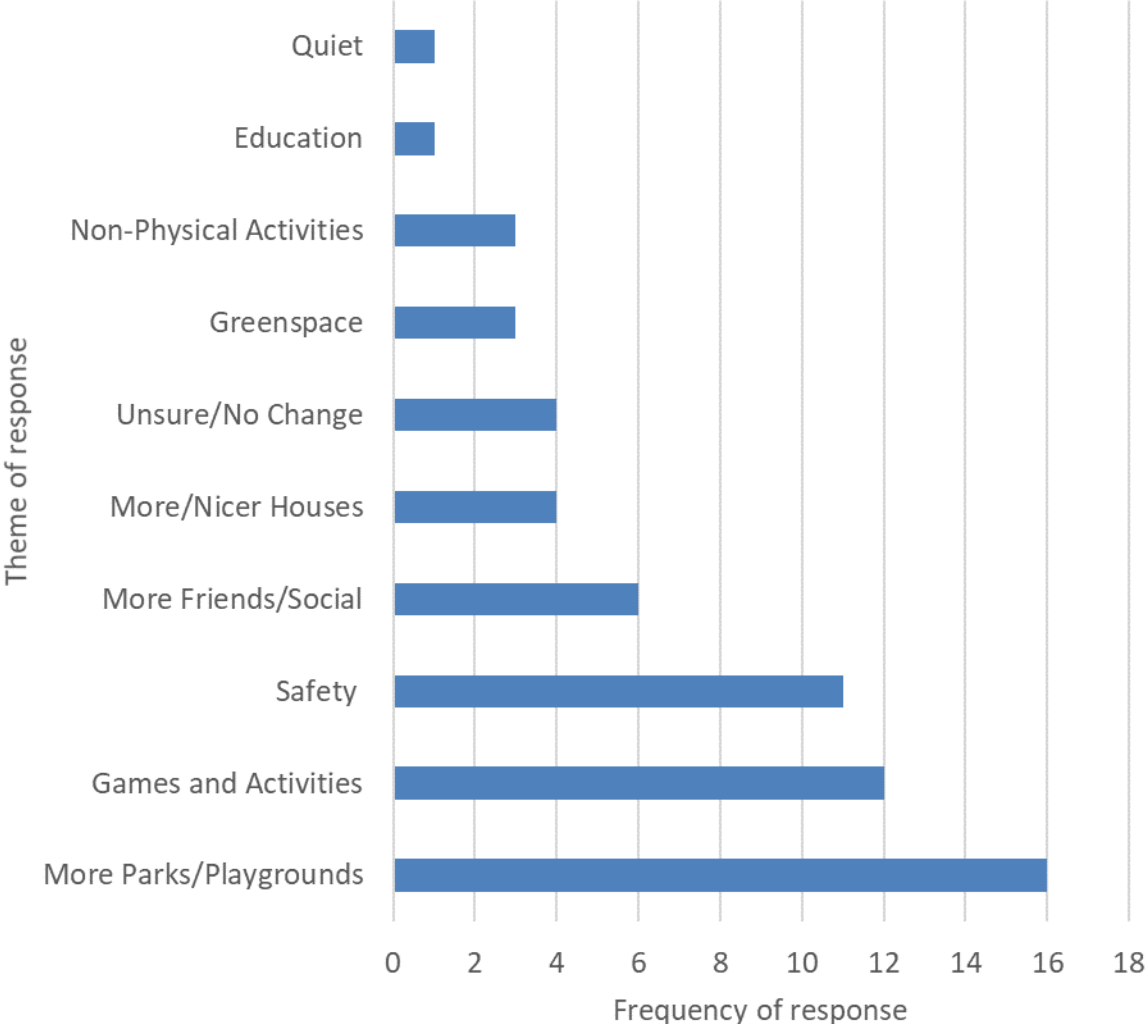


A photograph of children playing at a park. In the foreground, a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt and pink pants, is riding a blue and yellow tricycle. To her left, another child is riding a green scooter. In the background, a boy in a maroon t-shirt with 'BRISBANE' and 'WINGS' on it is looking towards the camera. Further back, a woman in a blue hoodie is standing near a green fence. The scene is outdoors with trees and a paved area.

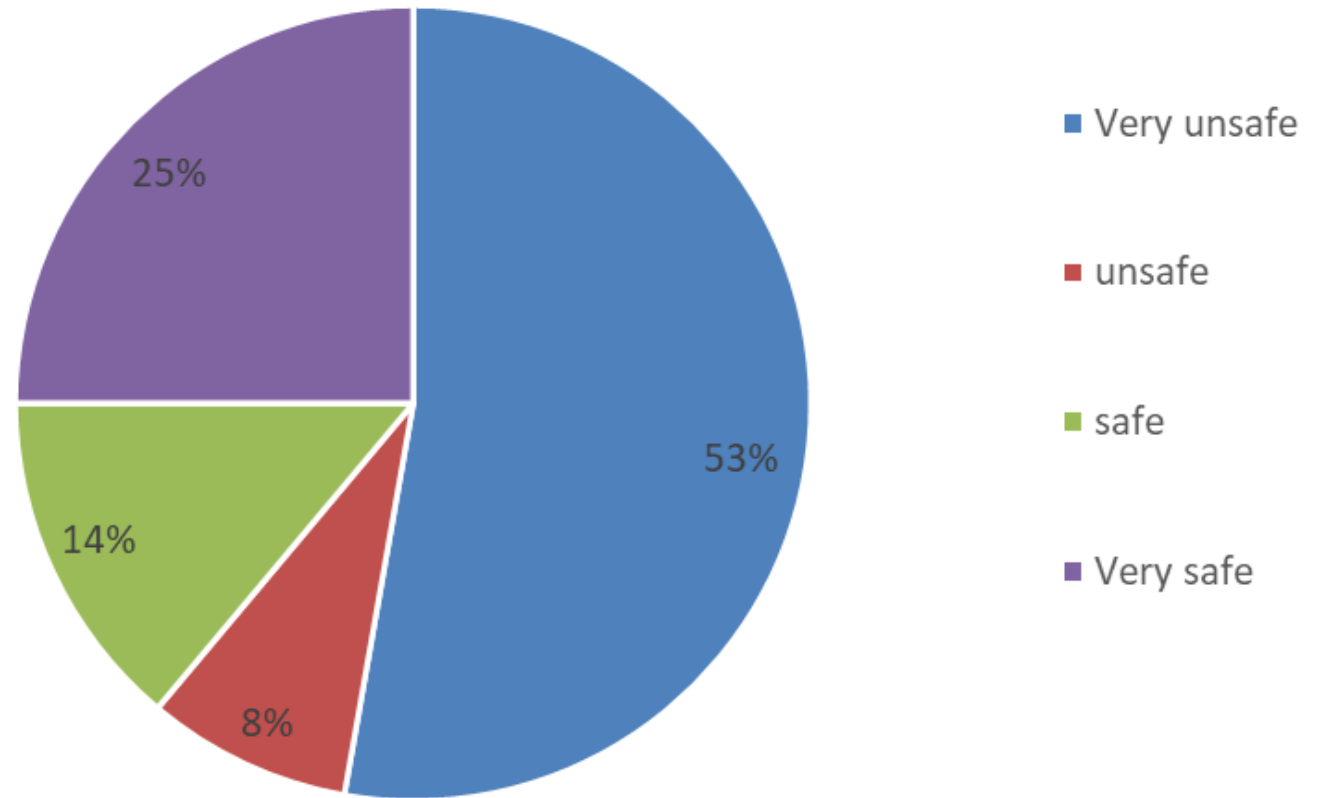
During the operation of the CAP program, Logan Together has been able to create play opportunities for at least 3507 children in accessible and creative ways.

Reach is more like 25000
This number was the goal set at the outset of the CAP program by QLD state gov.

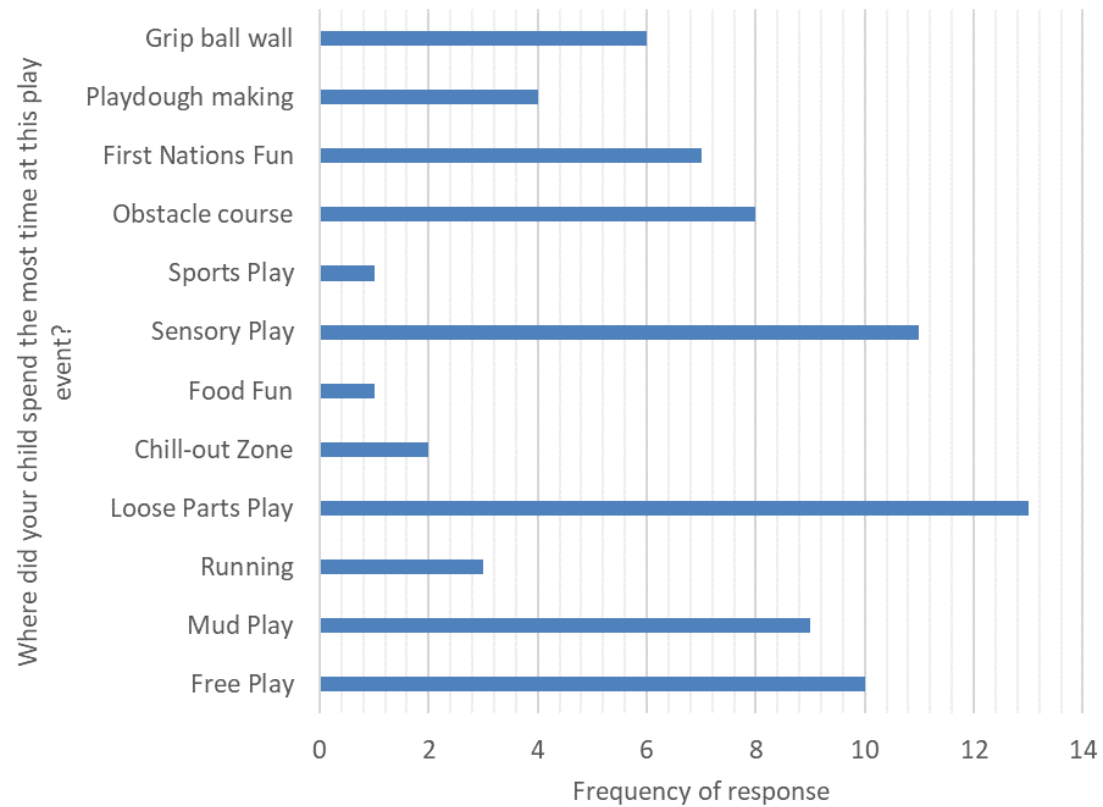
Response to the question "What would make your neighbourhood better?"



Eagleby children's responses to the question "How safe do you think your neighbourhoods are for playing?"



Parent's responses to where their child spent the most time playing at the Under 8s Play event





Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CDbGLqVO6A>

Sustainability



2022
2021
2020



2022
Into the future



