



2019

# STATE OF THE CHILDREN

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN  
THE CAIRNS SOUTHERN CORRIDOR

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PREPARED ON BEHALF OF MISSION AUSTRALIA AND  
THE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN WORKING GROUP

  
**Communities  
FOR CHILDREN**  
cairns south & yarrabah



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- 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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## FORWARD FROM THE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Back in August 2016, Communities for Children and the Collective Impact working group committed our attention to the strengths and weaknesses of the community of Cairns South. This commitment brought about the State of the Children Report (prepared by Working Visions, Authors: Dr Scott R Davis and Ms Kristy Hill) which highlighted where the considerations for our future planning might be and strengthened our resolve to do better.

This was a real commitment from a group of people from across the sector and community who were determined to set a common agenda acknowledging that: complex problems cannot be solved by any single organisation; and, partnerships between government, the non-profit, corporate, philanthropists, community and those with lived experience was essential.

In the inaugural State of the Children Report, we made reference to the importance of measuring the impacts the provision of services has on particular communities. We made mention also of the difficulties inherent in collecting and matching information from official and less formal sources.

In the 2019 State of the Children Report, these difficulties continue to hamper our efforts but despite this, the Collective Impact Working Group have collected relevant statistics which give a reliable snapshot of the social challenges confronting the communities which make up the Southern Corridor of Cairns.

Just as the previous report formed the basis for the strategies adopted for the Cairns South Communities for Children's Community Strategic Plan, this new report will be used to ensure we are targeting our efforts and funds in the most effective areas.

We offer our congratulations to the efforts of the team led by Dr Scott Davis in bringing together this 2019 report in the face of the difficulties occasioned by the lack of coordination in the generation of official data sets and in some instances a reluctance to make data available.

Pockets of disadvantage in the Cairns Southern Corridor continue to cause concern, but the committee trusts having relevant data at hand will enable more focused efforts towards its alleviation. The ultimate purpose of these efforts is to encourage and to guide action that achieves that aim and thus improves the whole community. We hope that the many organisations working towards this end will benefit from this Report.



**The Communities for Children Committee**  
Cairns South 2019/20





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2019 State of the Children Report provides an update on the childhood development indicators identified in the 2016 State of the Children Report. 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 region and provides the original 2016 data to allow the reader to observe any changes that have been noted.

In seeking to make the report as readable as possible, the authors explore the data using a consistent format. This format has been to (where possible) provide an analysis of the most recent data by the Cairns local government area (LGA) or equivalent, compared to state or national figures. The Southern Corridor communities are then compared to the Cairns LGA region or equivalent by year. A summary of key changes observed between the 2016 and 2019 report is then discussed and any changes at a community level are then highlighted.

In 2016, the Communities for Children (CfC) commissioned the baseline report, and where possible the same methodology, data sources and definitions have been used in the 2019 report.

The Australian government-funded program, Communities for Children (CfC), 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.

This report has been prepared by the team which produced the 2016 report. This project was guided by the CfC Cairns South Steering Committee Program Manager Margaret Osmond and a number of community stakeholders. These stakeholders include education, health and social service providers that work with children in the Southern Corridor of Cairns. The team would like to acknowledge the CfC Cairns South Steering Committee for their ongoing support and constructive feedback during the development of the report. The information contained in this report is ordered into five domains.

### Domain 1: Developing well by age 6

### Domain 2: Safe and secure

### Domain 3: Happy and healthy

### Domain 4: Engaged, learning and achieving

### Domain 5: Active citizens

Within each domain, there are several indicators that draw from data sources such as National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results, Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) data and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Data collection and interpretation in this project was challenging because of the level of data needed. Data specific to a suburb was needed rather than Local Government Area (LGA) level data, which is more readily available and has been used in similar previous reports.

It is important to note that while commentary will be provided on the changes observed since the 2016 report, a cautious approach must be used in interpreting data. Changes in the definition of indicators, changes to collection methodologies and issues with publishing small numbers which are potentially identifiable all need to be considered in future discussion on local trends and statistical significance.

The team is aware of the majority of the changes that have been observed since the 2016 report are not statistically significant. Year on year variations as a result of changes in the age cohorts will have an impact on the change observed. In 2016 the team identified a number of data gaps including in mental health, alcohol and substance misuse and active participation of children in their communities. A number of these gaps remain, and it is proposed the CfC committee review the recommendations of this report with an explicit focus on gaining the commitment of NGOs and Government Departments to share data and identify mechanisms to address the existing data gaps.

A number of communities performed above or on par with state and national measures, however, due to the inconsistencies with the improvement, it is difficult to attribute the changes between 2016 and 2019 to specific intervention or additional programs or funding. The authors hold the view that the CfC committee should convene expert working groups with local stakeholder to discuss the changes observed.

With the projected increase in the population within the region, including an increase in the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (CALD), there is emerging evidence to suggest that a significant proportion of this population will locate in the Southern Corridor region. CALD communities face a number of issues related to child development, in particular, an ability to build social capital as a protective factor. As highlighted in the recommendations, consideration should be given by the CfC committee to utilise CALD data in future reports.

The recommendations from the 2019 report include:

- Formalise a data-sharing agreement between CfC partners – consideration should be given to developing a data atlas which brings together data from all agencies in the way which allows detailed analysis.
- Continue to work with CfC partners to monitor local indicators.
- Consideration should be given by the CfC committee to utilise CALD data in future reports
- Selection of indicators must consider the frequency of data collection and the range of measures. This should include both process and impact measures consistent with the program logic.
- Partner a research institute or institution to work alongside the CfC committee to further research outcomes and improve data collection and reliability.
- Conduct a series of local stakeholder workshops to discuss the findings.

## 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 the investment in people and services for families and children. In drafting this report, the authors have reflected (based on the findings of the 2019 and 2016 reports), that while changes are slowly occurring, the vision articulated by the various governments will need long term and ongoing commitment to be achieved.

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 1.8% per year over the next 25 years. By 30 June 2041, the population is expected to reach 236,593 (QGSO 2016).

The region of interest for this report is Cairns South (See Figure 1). Within this region, there are eight suburbs of interest: Bayview Heights; Earlville; Bentley Park; Edmonton; Gordonvale; Mt Sheridan; White Rock; Woree. Most of these suburbs (to be referred to as the 'Southern Corridor' suburbs throughout this report) have a higher proportion of Indigenous residents than that of the Cairns Local Government Area (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.

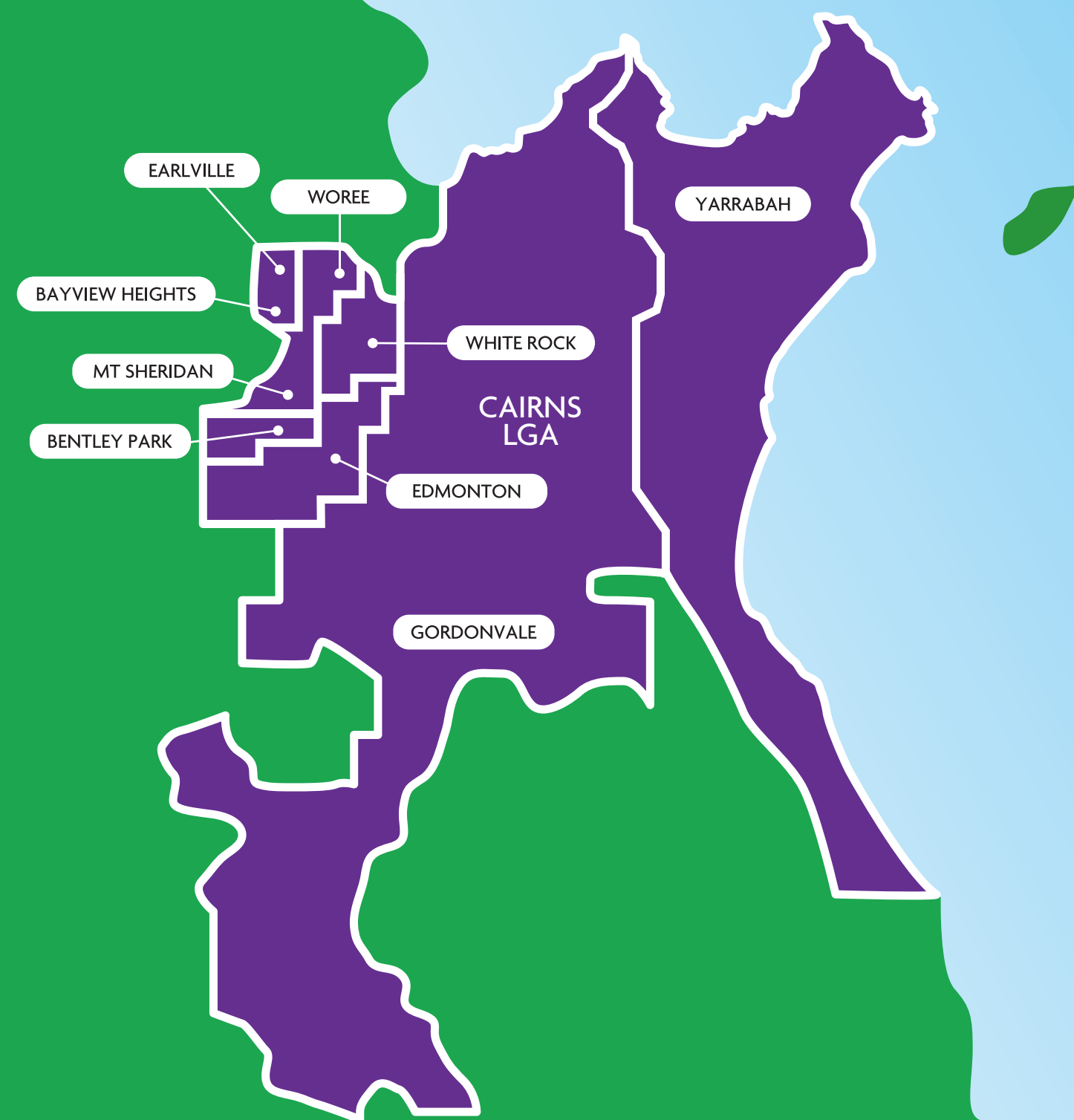
These Southern Corridor suburbs have emerged in recent years as areas of significant growth, partly because there is limited capacity for expansion within the Cairns LGA to the north and west. The predicted population growth rate for the Gordonvale and White Rock areas, for example, is 22.6% and 4.2% respectively until 2041, 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 initiative, Communities for Children (CfC) Cairns South, is working in Cairns 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 collective impact project 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:

1. The activities of the various community groups and organisations in the Southern Corridor as informed by the CfC committee;
2. Consideration of the information available in existing large datasets; and,
3. 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 and CfC as part of the development of the 2016 report. For the 2019 report, where possible, the authors have sought to use the same indicators and dataset.

For the purpose of this report ‘children’ are defined as 0-19 years, unless otherwise stated. (A point of note is that the Australian Bureau of Statistics 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 local government area (LGA) level data. In order to access this local 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 Queensland (‘state’) suburbs and localities though on occasion 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 right in Table 1), which took in 10 suburbs, including Yarrabah. At the request of Mission Australia, data on Yarrabah has not been published in this report.

# DATA SOURCES

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

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census 2011 data
- The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) 2018 data
- The 2018 NAPLAN results from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA)
- 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. Where additional data has been sourced to replace an indicator, this has been identified in the report.

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

**Table 1:** SA2 areas (<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 are provided in Appendix 1.

While data was collected during data sourcing for the community of Yarrabah, it has not been published at the request of Mission Australia.

# FRAMEWORK

The framework used in the 2016 report has remained consistent in the 2019 report.

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 ecological model deems 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.

In the 2016 process, this model guided the identification of the five domains, detailed below, and a series of indicators which would form the parameters of this report.

In developing the 2019 report, indicators have (where possible) been kept the same as the 2016 report. Where there have been changes in definition, collection methodology or data is no longer being collected, this has been identified in the text.

## 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 the most important developmental 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 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 two (2) and 20 indicators. Decisions about the inclusion of indicators were 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 (as 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

Data has been provided for the indicator for the current reporting period, and the previous reporting period where possible. In order to draw out the key findings from the report, suburb data has been colour coded according to whether it is performing well or not performing well compared to the comparator within the current reporting period. To avoid all doubt, the title colour of the indicator has been matched to the comparator in all the tables.

	<b>NOT PERFORMING WELL AGAINST THE COMPARATOR</b> THE CAIRNS LGA/CAIRNS AEDC COMMUNITY AVERAGE	The comparator is determined according to the lowest statistical level available
	<b>ON PAR OR PERFORMING WELL AGAINST THE COMPARATOR</b> THE CAIRNS LGA/CAIRNS AEDC COMMUNITY AVERAGE	

## DOMAIN 1 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 as represented by the comparator. While any assumptions made from the data should be done so with caution, there is value in utilising the data to facilitate local-level discussions with communities and service providers. Looking at the difference between this data and local trends will allow stakeholders to consider the root causes of those areas and communities in which challenges and successes are evident. It is also worth noting that many of the departments which collate and analyse the key data sets have insights into the observations which could support a detailed discussion.

While the majority of the Southern Corridor communities consistently performed better than the state and national averages on a range of Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) indicators, some communities performed significantly better than the local averages in a number of specific AEDC indicators. Despite this, changes between the 2016 and 2019 reports show significant community-specific variation.

For children and young people living in the Southern Corridor communities, there appears to be an incremental improvement with a degree of local variability between suburbs. Teenage birth rates (including Indigenous teenage birth rates) have dropped since 2016 for the Cairns LGA, and most Southern Corridor

communities are consistent with these changes with the exception of a few outliers. It is interesting to note that in 2018, Indigenous teenage birth rates for the Cairns LGA (12.5%) are lower than the state (14.4%), while the 2018 teenage birth rate for Cairns LGA (all mothers) (4.2%) is higher than the state (3.5%).

While smoking rates during pregnancy in 2018 for the Cairns LGA (16.0%) remain higher than the state (12.2%), there does appear to be an overall drop in the rate for Indigenous (41.3%) and Non-Indigenous teenage mothers (16.0%) since 2016, with the only outlier being Indigenous mothers from Earville - Bayview Heights.

In this report, we note the immunisation rates for the Cairns Health and Hospital Service region for Indigenous children aged 5 years (97.5%) now exceeds the rates for non-Indigenous children of the same age (94.6%).

Low birth weight is a key indicator for child development and it is worth noting that the percentage of low birth weight babies has dropped since 2016, with all the Southern Corridor communities in 2018 better than the state measure (11.8%). This is except for Woree, which in the 2016 report had a rate of 8.8% and in 2018 has a rate of 15.8% – significantly higher than the state.

With regard to the AEDC indicators included in this domain, the results need to be considered carefully and the research team encourage the CfC committee to engage with the Department of Education to further explore the implication of the variable findings and the year-on-year changes which have been observed.



## DOMAIN 2 SAFE AND SECURE

There remain significant challenges for the Southern Corridor in terms of creating safe and secure communities for children.

Overall in 2018, rates of unemployment among parents within the Southern Corridor suburbs were higher than Cairns LGA (14.7%). This is except for three communities: Earlville-Bayview Heights (13.6%), Gordonvale-Trinity (14.3%) and Mount Sheridan (9.5%). This rate of unemployment could create financial challenges for families with children. It is worth noting that since the 2016 report, rates of unemployed parents have dropped across all the Southern Corridor communities, though the rates remain significantly higher than the national measure (11.9%).

As in 2016, the research team in compiling the report 2019, remains unable to report rates of homelessness within the Cairns LGA area or by SA2 within the Southern Corridor. In an area in which local stakeholders continue to report high levels of homelessness, especially amongst young people, the lack of year-on-year data is problematic. This is particularly concerning given the expected population growth within the Southern Corridor footprint.

In terms of the rates of victims of offences against people (of all ages) in the Southern Corridor suburbs, this figure is slightly lower than the Cairns LGA region (1931), however, a considered analysis may need to explore on the possibility that data may be skewed by the location in which the offence occurred.

In the 2016 report, the authors highlighted a concern that there are significant and consistently high rates of substantiated child abuse and high rates of child protection orders across the Southern Corridor. While there have been changes between the 2016 report and the current report in some communities, significant investment is required to improve this indicator.

## DOMAIN 3 HAPPY AND HEALTHY

While examining the domain 'happy and healthy' in the 2016 report, the authors found it challenging to access useful data. The issue of having access to good reliable quantitative data remains current in 2019.

Of the few indicators that could be obtained to measure 'health' (healthy eating, obesity, physical activity and sun protective behaviour), 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 in both the 2016 report and 2019 report is comparable and slightly better than the state in these measures. The CHHHS region covers an area 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 283,197. In comparison, the Southern Corridor region covers only 544.4 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 58, 511. It is therefore difficult to make any assertions from this overall CHHHS data about the health of specific communities within the Southern Corridor.

As data was not available for the indicators relating to substance misuse and alcohol; suicide, poisoning and self-harm; and mental health, the authors have drawn on findings from the literature and a population health needs assessment undertaken by the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN). Although the NQPHN footprint is again significantly larger than the Southern Corridor footprint, it is worth noting that the NQPHN needs assessment data highlighted a higher prevalence of mental disorders amongst young people between 4-17 years compared to the national average. Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) was also a key issue, with young people aged 10-29 (40.5%) representing the highest proportion of attendees at AOD services in 2016-17 in the region.

In the 2016 report, it was noted that the percentage of children with special needs or requiring further assessment in Prep at school for the Cairns ACED area was lower than that of the state percentage, and that the Southern Corridor suburbs had mixed results. The 2018 data suggests that the percentage of children with special needs has increased, while the percentage of children requiring further assessment has declined. This change may be due to improved assessment processes which provide a more timely assessment of further needs. The research team encourages the CfC committee to discuss these findings with the Department of Education (Queensland) so that a more detailed analysis can be undertaken.

## DOMAIN 4 ENGAGED, LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

In examining the domain 'engaged, learning and achieving' the project team relied heavily on NAPLAN data. The research team wishes to acknowledge that the Department of Education has a data analytic team which uses this data set on the regular bases. The CfC committee encourages stakeholders to engage with this group to further analyse the NAPLAN data and AECD data sets to understand the local and year on year variances which have been observed.

Children who are read to regularly by their parents are better placed to succeed in school. Unfortunately, since the 2016 report, the rates of parents who read to their children regularly or occasional within the Cairns ACED community has dropped slightly from 89.6% in 2015 to 87.6% in 2018. It is worth noting that since 2016 within the Southern Corridor communities, most of the community's rates have improved although they remain lower than the 2018 Queensland measure (92.3%). Similarly, the percentage of children who attended a preschool or kindergarten program before going to school has increased since the 2016 report for the Southern Corridor communities with the exception of Bayview Heights which dropped from 85.6% in 2015 to 73.6% in 2018.

Regular attendance at school is a factor in a child's development. In the 2016 report, the rate of regular attendance for Queensland was 92.3% for all students and 85.7% for Indigenous students. In 2018 the rates have dropped to 91.5% for all students and 84.4% for Indigenous students. A similar pattern has been observed within the Southern Corridor communities in this report, with a slightly larger drop being observed within the Indigenous student population, which warrants further discussion with the Department of Education (Queensland).

As noted in the 2016 report, young peoples (15-19 years) participation in study or work, otherwise called 'learning and earning activities' showed a mixed result. Some communities sat consistent with or higher than the state and national average, while others performed below. In the most recent data, this pattern has continued with Bentley Park, White Rock and Woree experiencing lower rates than the Cairns LGA. It is worth noting that all Southern Corridor communities have improved their rates since the 2016 report.

## DOMAIN 5 ACTIVE CITIZENS

In examining the domain 'active citizens', the project team sought 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, it 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. Changes in the availability of mobile internet, data plans cost and the increasing requirement to be able to access computers and the internet for educational purposes should increase access to the internet in the home environment.



BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
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ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION 0-24 YEARS AS OF THE 30TH OF JUNE 2017

53,795	3,517	2,474	4,491	3,244	3,161	1,742	1,581
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NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-24 FORECAST FOR 2031

66,171	3,655	2,733	5,848	7,358	3,198	2,094	1,773
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NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-24 FORECAST FOR 2041

74,319	3,797	2,707	6,821	12,067	3,315	2,327	2,050
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ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION ALL AGES AS OF THE 30TH OF JUNE 2017

163,762	8,470	8,381	11,138	9,264	8,646	4,976	4,919
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ESTIMATED RESIDENT GROWTH POPULATION (ALL AGES) AS OF THE 30TH OF JUNE 2041

236,593	9,915	9,349	17,286	33,047	10,827	7,336	7,501
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ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (ALL AGES) OVER THE PERIOD 2016 – 2041

1.8%	1.6%	0.8%	4.7%	22.6%	2.3%	4.2%	4.3%
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YOUNG PEOPLE (0-24) AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION FORECAST FOR 2031

36.2%	41.0%	30.0%	47.2%	60.9%	32.9%	36.8%	33.9%
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CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
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YOUNG PEOPLE (0-24) AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION FORECAST FOR 2041

31.4%	38.3%	29.0%	39.5%	36.5%	30.6%	31.7%	27.3%
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NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 0-14 IN COUPLE FAMILIES 2016

15,896	974	876	1,223	1,012	1,071	408	382
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PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 0-14 IN COUPLE FAMILIES 2016

49.5%	43.6%	55.1%	42.7%	51.0%	55.0%	39.0%	39.5%
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NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 0-14 IN SOLE PARENT FAMILIES 2016

7,817	448	383	637	431	395	277	353
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PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 0-14 IN SOLE PARENT FAMILIES 2016

24.3%	20.1%	24.1%	22.2%	21.7%	20.3%	26.5%	36.5%
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NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AGED 0-24 YEARS IN 2016

7,624	626	324	942	548	404	451	439
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INDIGENOUS YOUNG PEOPLE AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL PEOPLE AGED 0-24 YEARS IN 2016

14.9%	18.7%	13.1%	21.9%	22.7%	13.6%	27.8%	27.7%
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SEIFA SCORES BY INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

980	979	994	956	985	1025	928	868
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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 (Prep). 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.



INDICATORS

1. CHILDREN WITH LONE PARENTS

  - Percentage of children who live in families with lone parents
2. TEENAGE BIRTH RATES

  - Annual average percentage of births to teenage mothers (aged 15-19 years) over the period 2015-2017
  - Indigenous teenage birth rate: annual average percentage of births to teenage mothers (aged 15-19 years) over the period 2015-2017
3. SMOKING RATES DURING PREGNANCY

  - Smoking during pregnancy: percentage of mothers smoking during pregnancy (average for the period 2015-2017)
  - Smoking during pregnancy: percentage of Indigenous mothers smoking during pregnancy (average for the period 2015-2017)
4. LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

  - Percentage of babies exhibiting low birth weight (2015-17)
  - Percentage of Indigenous babies exhibiting low birth weight (2015-17)
5. IMMUNISATIONS

  - Percentage of children fully immunised (HHS) (2018)
6. DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE

  - Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)
  - Percentage of children who are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (SA2)
7. 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)
8. 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)
9. 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)
10. 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)
11. 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 1  
CHILDREN WITH LONE PARENTS

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN FAMILIES WITH LONE PARENTS

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	15.6%	14.7%	18.7%	12.5%	18.1%	15.0%	14.7%	15.8%	16.7%
2016	16.5%	15.7%	20.0%	13.4%	17.9%	15.3%	15.4%	19.1%	19.4%

Source: 2018 AEDC data

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

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).

In 2018, the percentage of children who live in families with lone parents within the Cairns LGA (14.7%) is lower than the state measure (15.6%) which is consistent with findings in 2016. Since the 2016 report, both the Cairns LGA and the state have shown slight improvement, but it is difficult to assess if this is a positive trend.

In 2018, Earlvile – Bayview Heights (18.7%) and Mount Sheridan (14.7%) have lower rates of single-parent families compared to both the Cairns LGA and the state, and this is consistent with their data from the 2016 report.

In 2018, 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 consistent with the state. It is worth noting that all Southern Corridor communities excluding Edmonton have improved against this indicator since the last report.

INDICATOR 2  
TEENAGE BIRTH RATES

ANNUAL AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS (AGED 15-19 YEARS) OVER THE PERIOD 2015-2017

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015-17	3.5%	4.2%	4.3%	4.7%	7.4%	3.2%	1.3%	8.0%	7.5%
2010-14	4.9%	5.7%	6.0%	6.0%	8.0%	6.6%	3.1%	9.2%	10.0%

INDIGENOUS TEENAGE BIRTH RATES

ANNUAL AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS (AGED 15-19 YEARS) OVER THE PERIOD 2015-2017

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015-17	14.4%	12.5%	11.8%	16.3%	12.1%	9.2%	NA	16.4%	14.1%
2010-14	18.1%	15.9%	13.5%	12.6%	20.9%	15.4%	10.4%	19.1%	13.1%

Source: Perinatal Data Collection, Department of Health, QLD

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

COMMENTARY

Teenage motherhood continues to pose 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 preterm birth, low birth weight 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). A key finding from a 2016 AIHW report suggests that risk of social stigma with teen motherhood potentially affects social determinants of health that include access to education, employment and social support.

In 2018, the rate of teenage pregnancy in the Cairns LGA area is higher than the state. In comparison to the rate of Indigenous teenage pregnancy (which is lower than the state measure), this pattern is consistent with the 2016 reports data.

In the Southern Corridor communities, teenage birth rates in 2018 remain higher than Cairns LGA and the state measure, with the exception of Mount Sheridan (1.3%) and Gordonvale-Trinity (3.2%) which are both lower than the other Southern Corridor communities and the Cairns LGA. It is worth noting that Gordonvale – Trinity rates have dropped between 2015 (6.6%) and 2018 (3.2%). Based on data from the period 2015 -2017, teenage birth rates have dropped consistently with the state, Cairns LGA and Southern Corridor communities.

In the Southern Corridor communities, Indigenous teenage birth rates in 2018 were lower than the Cairns LGA in all suburbs except Earlvile- Bayview Heights (16.3%), White Rock (16.4%) and Woree (14.1%). It is worth noting that for White Rock the rate has dropped by 3% from 2015 to 2018. In 2018, Indigenous teenage birth rates have improved since the 2015 report compared to the state and the Cairns LGA, and while most Southern Corridor communities are consistent with these changes, Earlvile- Bayview and Woree appear to be the outliers.

In general terms, these figures are consistent with the national patterns around remoteness and Indigenous identification.

INDICATOR 3  
SMOKING RATES DURING PREGNANCY

PERCENTAGE OF MOTHERS SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY (AVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2017)

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015-17	12.2%	16.0%	18.0%	15.2%	22.9%	18.2%	12.0%	21.3%	27.6%
2010-14	15.2%	19.8%	19.3%	17.2%	26.1%	20.8%	16.0%	26.9%	28.1%

INDIGENOUS SMOKING RATES DURING PREGNANCY  
PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENOUS MOTHERS SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY (AVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2017)

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015-17	43.1%	41.3%	39.7%	48.7%	42.4%	47.6%	30.8%	36.9%	43.7%
2010-14	48.6%	47.5%	41.2%	48.2%	49.3%	52.2%	35.5%	47.3%	45.3%

Source: Perinatal Data Collection, Department of Health, QLD

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

**COMMENTARY**

Smoking during pregnancy is a significant risk factor for the mother and her unborn baby.

Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of a range of conditions, including low birth weight, preterm 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).

In 2018, data for the Cairns LGA suggest that the overall smoking rates during pregnancy for both all mothers and Indigenous mothers have dropped since the 2016 report which is consistent with national data.

While smoking during pregnancy rates in 2018 for the Cairns LGA (16.0%) are higher than the state rate (12.2%), there has been a drop in the

rates of smoking during pregnancy since the last report. This pattern is consistent across the Southern Corridor communities, except for Earlvile -Bayview Height (15.2%) and Mount Sheridan (12.05%).

In 2018 the rates for Indigenous women in the Cairns LGA (41.3%) who smoked during pregnancy were lower than the state's measure (43.1%), with communities of Bentley Park (39.2%), Mount Sheridan (30.8%) and White Rock (36.9%), below the Cairns LGA.

It is worth noting that since the 2016 report the Cairns LGA and all of the Southern Corridor communities have reduced the rates of Indigenous mothers smoking during pregnancy with the exception of Earlvile – Bayview Heights (48.7%) which rates have not changed significantly since the 2016 report (48.2%).

INDICATOR 4  
LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

PERCENTAGE OF BABIES EXHIBITING LOW BIRTH WEIGHT 2015-17

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015-17	7.2%	7.6%	6.7%	5.7%	7.0%	7.7%	5.4%	5.7%	11.0%
2010-14	6.9%	7.6%	6.9%	5.8%	7.8%	7.7%	7.0%	6.8%	8.0%

INDIGENOUS LOW BIRTH WEIGHT  
PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENOUS BABIES EXHIBITING LOW BIRTH WEIGHT 2015-17

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015-17	11.8%	9.9%	8.8%	7.6%	9.9%	10.2%	7.5%	5.4%	15.8%
2010-14	11.6%	11.8%	8.4%	8.0%	13.2%	9.9%	7.8%	5.5%	8.8%

Source: Perinatal Data Collection, Department of Health, QLD

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

**COMMENTARY**

Babies who are born with low birth weight are at greater risk of poor health, disability and death than other babies are. 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).

In 2018, the percentage of babies with low birth weight in the Cairns LGA (7.6%) remains slightly higher than the state measure (7.2%). This pattern was also evident in the 2016 report for the Cairns LGA. However, within the Southern Corridor communities, low birth weight rates have continued to improve since the 2016 report.

In the 2019 report, the rate of Indigenous low birth weight babies for the Cairns LGA (9.9%) compares favourably with the state (11.8%). Within the Southern Corridor, all communities with the exception of Gordonvale-Trinity (10.2%) and Woree (15.8%) are performing well against the Cairns LGA (9.9%). It is worth noting that since the 2016 report all communities in 2018 have improved except for Gordonvale – Trinity (10.2%) and Woree (15.8%) which have declined.



INDICATOR 5  
IMMUNISATIONS

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN FULLY IMMUNISED. (CHHHS) 2018

Table 3: Immunisation coverage for 12 months ending September 2018

INDICATORS	ALL CHILDREN		NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN		INDIGENOUS CHILDREN		STATE RATE - ALL CHILDREN		TARGET
	2015	2018	2015	2018	2015	2018	2015	2018	
FULLY VACCINATED AT 1 YEAR	92.11%	93.70%	92.65%	94.40%	85.90%	91.50%	91.96%	94.1%	95%
FULLY VACCINATED AT 2 YEARS	89.79%	90.60%	90.65%	91.10%	87.22%	89.20%	89.60%	91.70%	95%
FULLY VACCINATED AT 5 YEARS	93.10%	94.60%	92.56%	93.50%	95.01%	97.8%	92.07%	94.60%	95%

Source: Australian Childhood Immunisation Register  
\*Notes about the use of this data source are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET DIRECTION

DATA GAP



REDUCTION

COMMENTARY

In 2018 (consistent with comments from the 2016 report) data on immunisation by SA2 was not available to the research team. Due to this, the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health (CHHHS) regional data has been used.

In 2018, immunisation rates by age group have improved since 2016, and are getting closer to the target measure.

In 2016, the reported rates of immunisation for Indigenous children by age group were lagging compared to the non-Indigenous rate. While this pattern continues in 2018 for immunisations rate at Prep and year 3, the rate for Indigenous children at year 5 (97.8%) now exceeds their non-Indigenous peers in the CHHHS region (94.6%). This rate is above the state measure (94.6%) and target (95%).

INDICATOR 6  
DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE ON ONE OR MORE DOMAINS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS (2018)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	25.9%	24.2%	24.8%	20.8%	26.5%	26.7%	24.8%	20.8%	31.1%	20.5%	21.6%
2015	22%	26.1%	25%	22.5%	17.3%	15.7%	30.2%	42.2%	21.4%	30.2%	33.3%

SOURCE: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

COMMENTARY

Children are considered developmentally 'vulnerable' if they score below the 10th percentile (in the lowest 10%) of the national population in the 2018 AEDC data collection (AEDC, 2018).

In 2018 the proportion of children who were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains within the Cairns AEDC community (24.8%) was comparable with state rate (24.2%) and lower than the national figure (25.9%).

In 2018 within the Southern Corridor communities; Bentley Park (20.8%), Edmonton and surrounds (24.8%), Gordonvale (20.8%), White Rock (20.5%) and Woree (21.6%) were all

either lower or comparable to the Cairns AEDC benchmark (24.8%). Suburbs that had a higher rate of developmental vulnerability than the Cairns AEDC benchmark were Bayview Heights (26.5%), Earlville (26.7%) and Mount Sheridan (31.1%).

Since the 2016 report, the Cairns AEDC region has continued to be comparable to the Queensland measure (2016: 26.1%) (2018: 24.2%). In 2018, within the Southern Corridor communities, AEDC measures continued to improve with the exception of Bayview heights (26.5), Earlville (26.7%) and Mount Sheridan (31.1%) which appear to have declined, consistent with the national measures.

INDICATOR 6

DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE CONT.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE ON TWO OR MORE DOMAINS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS. (SA2) (2018)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	11.0%	13.9%	12.6%	8.9%	6.3%	20.8%	18.8%	14.3%	9.6%	19.4%	4.1%
2015	11.1%	14%	14.4%	12.4%	3.8%	9.8%	18.3%	29.4%	11.0%	15.6%	18.5%

SOURCE: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

COMMENTARY

In 2018, the percentage of children in the Cairns AEDC community (12.6%) who were developmentally vulnerable on two measures remained higher than the national measure (11.0%) but has improved against the state (13.9%). This suggests that since the 2016 report the Cairns AEDC region (14.4%) has improved incrementally.

In 2018 within the Southern Corridor communities there was variability with Woree (4.1%) having a lower rate than other Southern Corridor suburbs and a large change from the 2016 report (18.5%). Earlville (20.8%), Gordonvale and surrounds (14.3%) have both shown large changes since the 2016 report. Caution needs to be exercised in further interpretation of the data due to changes in the AEDC boundaries.

Both the 2016 and 2019 reports highlight a higher percentage of vulnerable children in a number of areas within the Southern Corridor which suggests a need for an ongoing focus in these communities. While some large changes have been observed in the data, understanding the factors that are driving these changes will be essential to informing any considered focus interventions.

INDICATOR 7

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 & SURROUDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	12.3%	13.7%	12.6%	10.2%	10.4%	4.0%	19.8%	18.1%	9.6%	11.7%	4.1%
2015	13.0%	14.6%	13.4%	11.5%	12.4%	7.8%	17.0%	26.6%	13.1%	17.7%	16.0%

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 & SURROUDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	9.6%	12.3%	11.4%	11.5%	10.4%	8.0%	15.5%	14.3%	8.8%	14.6%	5.4%
2015	9.7%	12.4%	11.6%	8.3%	7.7%	9.8%	16.6%	20.2%	8.3%	9.4%	11.1%

Source: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

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 2018 and consistent with the 2016 report, the proportion of children in the Cairns AEDC Community whose physical health and wellbeing were considered to be at-risk (12.6%) or vulnerable (11.4%) was comparable to the state levels and higher than the national measure.

In 2018 within the Southern Corridor communities, the percentage of children at risk is lower than the Cairns AEDC community (12.6%) with the exception of Edmonton and surrounds

(19.8%) and Gordonvale (18.1%). It is worth noting that since 2016 all communities have improved with the exception of Edmonton and surrounds which have declined.

In 2018 within the Southern Corridor communities, the percentage of children defined vulnerable is lower than the Cairns AEDC region (11.4%) with the exception of Bentley Park (11.5%), Edmonton and surrounds (15.5%), Gordonvale (14.3%) and White Rock (14.6%). For this indicator, the changes that have been observed since the 2016 report are variable with only three communities having improved since the 2016 report; Earlville, Woree, and Gordonvale.



INDICATOR 8  
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) (2018)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	14.4%	16.2%	15.4%	20.4%	20.8%	12.0%	17.9%	15.2%	16.0%	12.6%	18.9%
2015	15.0%	16.4%	16.9%	19.5%	17.3%	5.9%	17.0%	19.3%	21.4%	14.6%	19.8%

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 & SURROUDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	9.8%	11.9%	10.4%	7.6%	8.3%	12.0%	16.4%	10.5%	8.0%	15.5%	6.8%
2015	9.9%	12.4%	12.4%	11.8%	5.8%	7.8%	16.2%	24.8%	9.0%	15.6%	13.6%

Source: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET  
DIRECTION

REDUCTION

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 2018, the percentage of children within the Cairns AEDC Community who were at risk or vulnerable has dropped below the Queensland measure but remains higher than the national level.

In 2018 within the Southern Corridor communities, the percentage of children not on track and therefore considered at risk is variable when compared to the Cairns AEDC region (15.4%). The communities of Earlvile (12%), Gordonvale (15.2%) and White Rock (12.2%) are all performing well or are comparable in comparison to the Cairns AEDC region, state (16.2%) and national measure (14.4%); while the communities of Mount Sheridan (16.0%) and Woree (18.9%) have improved since the 2016 report.

In 2018 within the Southern Corridor communities, the percentage of children not on track and therefore considered vulnerable is variable when compared to the Cairns AEDC region (11.9%). The communities of Bentley Park (7.6%), Bayview Heights (8.3%), Mount Sheridan (8%) and Woree (6.8%) are all performing well compared the Cairns AEDC region, and lower than the state (11.9%) and national (9.8%) measures. Gordonvale (10.5%) is comparable with the Cairns AEDC region, while Earlvile (12.0%), Edmonton and surrounds (16.4%) and White Rock (15.5%) are lagging behind.

Since the 2016 report, Bentley Park, Gordonvale, Mount Sheridan and Woree have shown improvement in this indicator, however, the variability between 2016 and 2019 require a cautious approach to interpreting that data, and warrants further discussion with key stakeholders including Education Queensland.

INDICATOR 9  
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) (2018)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	14.4%	16.2%	17.1%	20.4 %	14.6%	14.0%	24.2%	19.0%	16.0%	20.4%	17.6%
2015	15.3%	16.4%	16.7%	18.9%	15.4%	9.8%	20.4%	20.2%	11.7%	16.7%	17.3%

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) (2018)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	8.4%	10.5%	9.9%	10.8%	8.3%	14.0%	12.1%	14.3%	8.0%	14.6%	5.4%
2015	8.4%	10.1%	10.6%	7.7%	1.9 %	3.9%	13.2%	23.9%	11.7%	10.4%	11.1%

Source: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET  
DIRECTION

REDUCTION

COMMENTARY

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

In 2018, the percentage of children in the Cairns AEDC Community whose emotional maturity was either at-risk (17.1%) or vulnerable (9.9%) remains comparable with the 2016 report. These rates are also comparable to the state measures (risk: 16.2%) (vulnerability ;10.5%) and higher than the national benchmark.

In 2018 in the Southern Corridor communities, the percentage of children at risk is variable when compared to the Cairns AEDC region. The communities of Bayview Height (14.6%), Earlvile (14%) and Mount Sheridan (16%) have lower rates than the Cairns AEDC community (17.1%) and the state measure (16.2%). Bentley Park (20.4%), Edmonton and surrounds (24.2%), White Rock (20.4%) and Woree (17.6%) have rates higher than the Cairns AEDC community, state and national measure.

Since the 2016 report, the percentage of children at risk in the communities of Bayview Heights and Gordonvale has improved over the period to 2018, while all other suburbs have declined.

In 2018 in the Southern Corridor communities, the percentage of children whose emotional maturity was vulnerable or at risk was variable.

In relation to the measure for vulnerability, the communities of Bayview Heights (8.3%), Mount Sheridan (8.0%) and Woree (5.4%) had results which were consistent or better than the Cairns AEDC community (9.9%), the state (10.5%) and national (8.4%) measures. In contrast Earlvile (14.0%), Edmonton and surrounds (12.1%), Gordonvale (14.3%), White Rock (14.6%) and Bentley Park (10.8%) were lower than the Cairns AEDC community.

It is worth noting that since the 2016 report, only Woree's results improved from 11.1% in 2016 to 5.4% in 2019.

INDICATOR 10

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) (2018)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON-VALE / TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	9.0%	9.6%	8.2%	4.5%	6.3%	16.3%	6.8%	8.6%	8.0%	8.7%	10.8%
2015	8.9%	9.7%	7.9%	15.4%	16.5%	7.8%	9.8%	3.7%	11.0%	7.3%	14.8%

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) (2018)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON-VALE / TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	6.6%	8.0%	7.8%	7.6%	6.3%	12.2%	6.8%	9.5%	8.0%	17.5%	5.4%
2015	6.5%	8.0%	7.4%	8.9%	5.8%	5.9%	10.6%	11.9%	5.5%	12.5%	16.0%

Source: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

COMMENTARY

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

In 2018, the percentage of children in the Cairns AEDC community whose language and cognitive skills were either at-risk (8.2%) or considered vulnerable (7.8%) was slightly below the state level (at risk: 9.6%; vulnerable: 8.0%). It is worth noting from the 2018 and 2016 data that Queensland percentages were slightly higher than the national benchmark on both measures.

In 2018 the percentage of children in the Southern Corridor suburbs whose language and cognitive skills were at risk were highly variable with Bentley Park (4.5%), Bayview Heights (6.3%), Edmonton and surrounds (6.8%) and Mount Sheridan (8.0%) being below the Cairns AEDC Community (8.2%) and state (9.6%) benchmark on the measure of risk, and therefore performing well. In 2018 the communities of Gordonvale (8.65%), White Rock (8.7%) and Woree (10.85) had rates of risk that were higher than the Cairns AEDC community (8.2%) and these rates are comparable with the state (9.6%) and national (9%) measures for risk.

While the changes since the 2016 report on the percentage of children in the Cairns AEDC Community whose language and cognitive skills were at-risk have been positive, in several communities' rates have increased. These communities are namely Earlvile (16.3%) and Gordonvale (8.6%) over the period and this requires further investigation.

In 2018 the percentage of children in the Southern Corridor suburbs whose language and cognitive skills were not on track and therefore considered vulnerable compared to the Cairns ACD community (7.8%) have in the main increased since 2016.

In 2018, Bentley Park (7.6%), Bayview Heights (6.3%), Edmonton and Surround (6.8%) and Woree (5.4%) were below the state measure (8%) and were performing well in comparison to the Cairns AEDC communities (7.8%); while Earlvile (12.2%), White Rock (17.5%) Mount Sheridan (8.0%) and Gordonvale (9.5%) remain above the Cairns AEDC rate (7.8%).

Changes in the two measures between the 2016 and 2019 report have a high degree of variability, with some communities making significant improvement across one or both measures, however, the changes observed for children's language and cognitive skills are complex and warrant further discussion with key stakeholders including Education Queensland.

INDICATOR 11

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) (2018)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON-VALE / TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	14.5%	15.9%	13.7%	14.6%	8.3%	10.0%	21.4%	9.5%	11.2%	14.6%	12.3%
2015	15.1%	16.7%	16%	14.2%	13.5%	9.8%	14.9%	25.7%	10.3%	14.6%	21%

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) (2019)

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUDS	GORDON-VALE / TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	8.2%	10.1%	9.1%	7.6%	4.2%	8.0%	8.3%	10.5%	8.8%	18.4%	9.6%
2015	8.5%	10.5%	11.3%	11.2%	5.8%	9.8%	17.4%	20.2%	13.1%	11.5%	18.5%

Source: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

COMMENTARY

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

In 2018, the percentage of children in Prep in the Cairns AEDC Community whose communication skills and general knowledge was not on track and considered at-risk (13.7%) or vulnerable (9.1%) were comparable with the national measure for risk (14.5%) and vulnerability (8.2%).

In 2018 within the Southern Corridor, the communities of Bayview Heights (8.3%), Earlvile (10.0%), Gordonvale (9.5%), Mount Sheridan (11.2%) and Woree (12.3%) were lower than Cairns AEDC Community (13.7%), while Bentley Park (14.6%), Edmonton and surrounds (21.4%) and White Rock (14.6%) were higher than the surrounding suburbs on the measure of risk.

On the measure of vulnerability, Gordonvale, Edmonton and surrounds and White Rock have shown a significant positive change in this measure from the 2016 report to the 2019 report.



# DOMAIN 2 SAFE & 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, issues considered include family/domestic violence, whether children are victims of crime, whether children are experiencing abuse or neglect, are homeless, and have financial security.

## INDICATORS

1. UNEMPLOYED PARENTS

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

  - Estimating homelessness population within the SA2 region
3. OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON

  - Number and Rate of Victims of Offences Against the Person, Cairns Southern Corridor Suburb as of 30th June 2019
4. 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
5. CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS

  - Rate of children aged 0-17 years subject to child protection orders per 1,000, by specific location, as at 30 June 2018
6. 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 1  
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)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	11.9%	12.8%	14.7%	16.3%	13.6%	17.3%	14.3%	9.5%	22.8%	28.5%
2015	13.3%	13.5%	17.2%	17.2%	14.6%	19.8%	16.2%	11.8%	26.9%	32.1%

Source: PHIDU, 2019

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

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 housing, nutrition and medical care. Children can, therefore, be more prone to psychological difficulties, behavioural problems and stress (AIHW 2009).

In 2018, the rate of children who live in households with unemployed parent/s is higher in the Cairns LGA (14.7%) than the state (12.8%) and national (11.9%) measures. This pattern is consistent with findings from the 2016 report.

Within the Southern Corridor between 2015 and 2018, all communities have observed a drop in rate, however when these individual community rates are compared to the Cairns LGA (14.7%), the rate of children in households with unemployed parents are higher within Bentley Park (16.3%), Edmonton (17.3%), White Rock (22.8%) and Woree (28.5%).

In 2018 the Southern Corridor community of Mount Sheridan (9.5%) was found to be performing well against the state and national measure.

INDICATOR 2  
HOMELESSNESS (ALL AGES)

ESTIMATING HOMELESSNESS POPULATION WITHIN THE SA2 REGION

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	116,427	21,715	1,357	36	81	68	18	15	13	33
2015	102,439	19,039	950	102	45	40	30	15	13	31

Source: ABS, Census 2010 | ABS Estimating Homelessness

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

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 a person is considered homeless when they do not have suitable accommodation alternatives and 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.

In the previous report, data was obtained on the proportion of youth as a percentage of the youth population that were homeless. As this data could not be obtained for this report, it is difficult to determine if this issue is improving or getting worse. National reports suggest that homeless rates are rising nationally, although estimates vary.



INDICATOR 3  
OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON

RATE OF VICTIMS OF OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, CAIRNS SOUTHERN CORRIDOR SUBURBS, PERIODS 01 JULY 2015-30TH JUNE 2016 AND 01 JULY 2018 -30 JUNE 2019

	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018/19	1931	685	780	900	381	449	1136	1487
2015/16	1878	665	815	617	416	283	902	1620

Source: Queensland Police Service Data | Rates are expressed per 100,000 persons and are calculated based on the estimated residential population as at 30 June of each year

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

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 from 2015-16 and 2018-19 (accessed from the Queensland 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 all the communities in the Southern Corridor. The authors are unable to provide any significant commentary on the current data, except to note that consistent with the 2015/16 data, rates in the 2017/18 period remain higher in the Cairns LGA than the Southern

Corridor communities, which may be related to the location in which the offence occurred. It is recommended that the CfC committee meets with the Queensland Police Service to discuss the implication of this data.

INDICATOR 4  
CHILD ABUSE SUBSTANTIATION

RATE OF CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A SUBSTANTIATION, PER 1,000 CHILDREN, BY SPECIFIC LOCATION, AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	QLD	CAIRNS <sup>(a)</sup>	BENTLEY PARK (SA2) <sup>(b)</sup>	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE <sup>(b)</sup>	EDMONTON <sup>(b)</sup>	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY <sup>(b)</sup>	MOUNT SHERIDAN <sup>(b)</sup>	WHITE ROCK <sup>(b)</sup>	WOREE <sup>(b)</sup>
2018	5.11	9.61	7.70	10.42	17.99	10.26	7.77	23.19	16.65
2015	5.07	8.7	10.14	3.42	14.67	7.78	3.69	18.5	8.08

Source: Child Safety, Youth and Women

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

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 has found that child abuse and neglect can have a profound impact on children and young people 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).

In 2018, child abuse substantiation in the Cairns LGA region (9.61/1000) is significantly higher than that of the state (5.11/1000). Within the Southern Corridor communities, there is a high degree of variability in the number of child abuse substantiations per 1000 children. In 2018, all suburbs with the exception of Bentley Park (7.7/1000) and Mount Sheridan (7.77/1000) reported a higher rate than that of the state (5.11/1000).

Since the 2016 report, there have been a number of changes within the Southern Corridor communities with some communities reporting a rate increase. Earlvile -Bayview Height went from a rate of 3.42/1000 in 2015 to a rate of 10.42/1000 in 2018. Woree has gone from a rate of 8.08/100 in 2015 to 16.55/1000 in 2018, and White Rock went from a rate of 18.5/1000 in 2015 to a rate of 23.19/1000 in 2018. The only suburb in which the rate has dropped is Bentley Park, which had a rate of 10.14/ 1000 in 2015 that dropped to 7.70/1000 in 2018.

A number of data transcription errors were identified in the 2016 report relating to this indicator and this has been corrected within this report.

INDICATOR 5  
CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS

RATE OF CHILDREN AGED 0-17YEARS, SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS PER 1,000, BY SPECIFIC LOCATION, AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	QLD	CAIRNS <sup>(a)</sup>	BENTLEY PARK (SA2) <sup>(b)</sup>	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE <sup>(b)</sup>	EDMONTON <sup>(b)</sup>	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY <sup>(b)</sup>	MOUNT SHERIDAN <sup>(b)</sup>	WHITE ROCK <sup>(b)</sup>	WOREE <sup>(b)</sup>
2018	8.53	12.42	20.54	16.15	18.28	10.66	14.72	9.72	15.78
2015	8.46	11.9	17.57	18.55	18.82	10.89	12.70	5.48	14.68

Source: 2015 & 2018 Data provided by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

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.

In 2018 and 2016, the number of child protection orders issued in the Cairns LGA region in both years (2015: rate 11.9/1000) (2018: rate 12.42/1000) is higher than the state.

In 2018, the rates of children subject to child protection orders within the Southern Corridor communities are higher than the state (8.53/1000) in all communities. In comparison to the Cairns LGA (12.42/1000), Gordonvale – Trinity (10.66/1000) and White Rock (9.72/1000) had lower rates.

Since the 2016 report, a number of Southern Corridor communities have shown incremental improvement with Earlville- Bayview Height dropping from 18.55/1000 in 2015 to 16.15 /1000 I 2018; Gordonvale -Trinity dropping from 10.89/1000 in 2015 to 10.66/1000 in 2018, which has meant that the 2018 rate for Gordonvale -Trinity has remained below the Cairns LGA for both the 2015 and 2018 reporting periods.

INDICATOR 6  
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) (2018)

	QLD	CAIRNS <sup>(a)</sup>	BENTLEY PARK (SA2) <sup>(b)</sup>	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE <sup>(b)</sup>	EDMONTON <sup>(b)</sup>	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY <sup>(b)</sup>	MOUNT SHERIDAN <sup>(b)</sup>	WHITE ROCK <sup>(b)</sup>	WOREE <sup>(b)</sup>
2018	8.53	11.00	17.61	16.67	16.85	9.08	11.04	8.23	16.65
2015	8.46	11.25	17.23	18.55	18.82	9.34	13.11	6.17	11.01

Source: 2015 & 2018 Data provided by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

TARGET DIRECTION



REDUCTION

COMMENTARY

In 2018, the rate of children who were in out-of-home care in the Cairns LGA (11.00/1000) was significantly higher than the state measure (7.87/1000). These results are consistent with the 2016 report which showed that the Cairns LGA rate (11.25/1000) was higher than the state measure (7.74/1000).

Regarding the number of children in out-of-home care in 2018, Gordonvale-Trinity (9.08/1000) and White Rock (8.23/1000) were the only suburbs to have a rate lower than the Cairns LGA rate (11/1000) but both were still higher than the state rate. Also, of note, was the continuing high rates experienced by Bentley Park (17.1/1000) and Edmonton (16.85/1000).

In the period from the 2016 report to the 2019 report, most communities' rates have remained stable, with Woree being an outlier having increased from 11.0/1000 in 2015 to 16.65/1000 in 2018. A cautious approach must be used in interpreting this data, as the authors don't have access to year-on-year trend data to inform findings.





DOMAIN 2  
HAPPY & HEALTHY

An individual’s health and wellbeing are 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

- 1. HEALTHY EATING
- 2. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY
- 3. 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
- 4. SUBSTANCE MISUSE
- 5. ALCOHOL USE
- 6. MENTAL HEALTH
- 7. SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE
- 8. SPECIAL NEEDS
  - Percentage of children (in the 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 1  
HEALTHY EATING

% OF CHILDREN 5-17 YRS THAT HAD INSUFFICIENT FRUIT/VEGETABLE INTAKE (CNS HHS COMPARED TO QLD)

	HEALTHY EATING INDICATOR	QLD	CAIRNS HHS	HEALTHY EATING INDICATOR	QLD	CAIRNS HHS
2018	FRUIT INTAKE	29%	30.1%	VEGETABLE INTAKE	94.7%	95.7%
2015		33.5%	28.3%		93.6%	91.9%

Source: The Health of Queenslanders 2018. Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland

TARGET  
DIRECTION

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). It 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 in 2015 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.

Unfortunately, in 2018, the rates of children who have insufficient fruit and vegetable intakes have increased.

No specific data is available on the 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 2  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, OVERWEIGHT  
AND OBESITY

	HEALTHY EATING INDICATOR	QLD	CAIRNS AND HINTERLAND HHS
2018	OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY DATA: % OF OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE CHILDREN AGED 5-17YRS	26%	26%
2015		25.3%	25.4%
2018	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	59%	48%
2015		60.6%	60.2%

Source: The Health of Queenslanders 2018. Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland

TARGET  
DIRECTION

COMMENTARY



PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY



Australia's young people are more likely than ever before to be overweight or obese (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australia's Health 2016. Canberra; 2016. Australia's health series no. 16. Cat. no. AUS 199).

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 from 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 range 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 either overweight or obese within the Cairns and Hinterland HHS (CHHHS) region is consistent with the levels reported in the state-wide data for the periods from 2015 to 2018. It is worth noting that in 2015, the percentage of young people with insufficient physical activity was 60.2% and in 2018 this rate has dropped to 48%, a significant improvement and a much lower than the state measure of 59% in 2018.



INDICATOR 3  
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

HEALTHY EATING INDICATOR		QLD	CAIRNS AND HINTERLAND HHS
2018	SUN PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOUR: % OF CHILDREN NOT SUNBURNT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AGED 5-17YRS	54%	38.1%
2015		40.8%	38.1%

Source: The health of Queenslanders 2018. Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

COMMENTARY

Australia continues to have the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with an average of 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.

In 2015, the proportion of children aged 5-17 years who were not sunburnt in the last 12 months within the CHHHS region (38.1%) was slightly lower than the state (40.8%). In 2018, the CHHHS figure has remained the same (38.1%), while the percentage of children not sunburnt in the last 12 months in Queensland has climbed to 54%.

DATA GAP

INDICATOR 4  
SUBSTANCE MISUSE

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% are choosing not to drink, but 8.7% had more than four standard drinks at least once a month.
- Around one in six (14.8%) had tried cannabis
- 94.7% have never smoked tobacco and just under 3.7% 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 North Queensland Primary Health Network's (NQPHN) Health Needs Assessment identified alcohol and other drugs (AOD) as one of the key priority issues for young people in the region. Children and young people aged 10-29 years recorded the largest proportion (40.5%) of all AOD treatment episodes in 2016-17 across the NQPHN region. Cannabis was the most commonly reported closed treatment episode (63%), followed by amphetamines (41.8%) and alcohol (23.3%) (Northern Queensland Primary Health Network,2019). Unfortunately, no locally specific data could be obtained.

Alcohol use at a young age is associated with more frequent use during late adolescence and an increased risk of later dependence.

DATA GAP

INDICATOR 5  
ALCOHOL USE

In 2008, around 1 in 50 (2.2%) 12-14-year-old Australian students had drunk more than four standard drinks on a single occasion in the previous week. In 2011 this had 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.

DATA GAP

INDICATOR 6  
MENTAL HEALTH

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.

During the transition from childhood to adolescence, mental disorders become the leading cause of illness and disability for children aged 10 to 19 years ahead of any physical disease (Black Dog Institute. Prevention of Depression and Anxiety in Australian Schools. 2016.)

The NQPHN Health Needs Assessment data indicated that children aged 4–17 years living in northern Queensland have a higher prevalence of mental disorders compared to the national average (Northern Queensland Primary Health Network. Northern Queensland Primary Health Network Needs Assessment 2019-2022; 2019.). The key issues experienced by this group were internalising disorders (anxiety disorders and major depressive disorder – 8.7%) and externalizing disorders (Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and conductor disorder – 7.1%).

DATA GAP

INDICATOR 7  
SELF-HARM  
AND SUICIDE

The rate of young people losing their life to suicide is getting higher. Accurate and specific data related to self-harm and suicide was difficult to obtain for the region.

Data from the NQPHN region reveals that suicide rates in the NQPHN region being higher than state and national averages. (Northern Queensland Primary Health Network. 2019). The overall age-standardised rate for suicide in the NQPHN region was 16.4/100,000 compared to the state average of 14.0/100,000 and national 10.9/100,000 average in 2013.

INDICATOR 8  
SPECIAL NEEDS

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

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUNDS	GORDON- VALE	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	4.5%	4.1%	2.6%	7.1%	1.9%	3.4%	6.3%	4.8%	3.9%	1.8%
2015	4.7%	4.2%	3.3%	4.0%	2.8%	5.3%	3.0%	1.4%	3.0%	2.5%

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

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUNDS	GORDON- VALE	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	12.9%	15.2%	12.6%	8.2%	9.3%	8.1%	8.7%	6.9%	7.9%	12.3%
2015	18.8%	13.9%	12.2%	13.1%	12%	17.6%	18.7%	8.2%	10.0%	17.3%

Source: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\*Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET  
DIRECTION

SPECIAL  
NEEDS



REDUCTION

ASSESSMENT



INCREASE

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.

As noted in the 2016 report, during the period 2011-2014, the percentage of children in the Cairns AEDC community who were identified as having special needs or requiring further assessment was slightly lower than the state and national averages for the same period.

In 2018, the percentage of children with special needs in the Cairns AEDC region (2.6%) has dropped since the 2016 report (3.3%). Despite this, a number of Southern Corridor communities in 2018 which had been performing well against the 2015 measure have become worse, and are now higher than both the state (4.1%) and national (4.5%) measures. These communities are namely Bentley Park (7.1%), Gordonvale (6.3%), Mount Sheridan (4.8%), White Rock (3.9%) and Edmonton and surrounds (3.4%) have higher rates than the Cairns AEDC region.

In 2018, the percentage of children who require further assessment in the Cairns ACED region (12.6%) has remained consistent with the 2015 rate (12.2%). It is worth noting that according to the 2018 data, all communities in the Southern Corridor are performing well against the Cairns AEDC region and state (15.2%) and national (12.9%) rates, which suggests that the number of students requiring further assessment is either being provided for or that students which are in Prep at school are being assessed prior to this year.



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 both from 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

1. EARLY YEARS READING

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

2. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Percentage of children who attended a preschool or kindergarten program before going to school for the first time

3. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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

4. 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 min. 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 min. 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 min. standard for numeracy

5. LEARNING OR EARNING

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



INDICATOR 1  
EARLY YEARS READING

PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG CHILDREN WHOSE 'PARENTS READ TO THEM REGULARLY/ OCCASIONALLY'  
(INCLUDING VERY TRUE AND SOMEWHAT TRUE) OVER THE PERIOD 2015 TO 2018

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUNDS	GORDON- VALE	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	93.0%	92.3%	87.6%	90.2%	87.9%	81.2%	83.9%	91.5%	84.0%	85.2%
2015	93.5%	92.5%	89.9%	85.8%	89.5%	81.9%	76.9%	87.8%	76.0%	84.0%

Source: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET  
DIRECTION



INCREASE

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 and/or 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 2018 AEDC data, the percentage of parents who read to their children either regularly or occasionally for the Cairns AEDC Community (87.6%) is lower than the state (92.3%) and national (93.0%) measures. Most Southern Corridor suburbs are not meeting the Cairns AEDC percentage of parents who read to their children. The Cairns AEDC percentage of parents who read to their children fell slightly from 2015 (89.6%) to 2018 (87.9%), while most Southern Corridor communities stayed the same or improved as can be seen with Bentley Park (90.2%), Gordonvale (83.9%) Mount Sheridan (91.5%) Woree (85.2%) and White Rock (84%).

INDICATOR 2  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED A PRESCHOOL OR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM BEFORE GOING TO SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR THE PERIOD 2015 TO 2018

	AUS	QLD	CAIRNS AEDC	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS	EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUNDS	GORDON- VALE	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2018	85%	75.4%	72.9%	70.6%	73.6%	78.4%	65.9%	80.2%	79.8%	66.0%	75.0%
2015	82.1%	69.9%	67.0%	57.4%	85.5%	80.4%	53.6%	77%	71.4%	54.5%	61.4%

Source: Australian Early Development Census 2018  
\* Notes about this data source including the Cairns AEDC Community are contained in Appendix 1

TARGET  
DIRECTION



INCREASE

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).

In comparing the 2018 AEDC data, the percentage of children who attended a preschool or kindergarten program prior to attending school for the first time in the Cairns AEDC community (72.9%) was slightly under the Queensland measure (75.4%) and was significantly lower than the national (85%) benchmark.

In 2018 within the Southern Corridor, most of the communities were doing better or were comparable with the Cairns AEDC community (72.9%) except for White Rock (66%), Edmonton and Surrounds (65.9%) and Bentley Park (70.6%).

In comparing the 2016 and 2018 rates, it is worth noting that the percentage of children who attended a preschool or kindergarten program prior to attending school for the first time increased for all Southern Corridor communities excluding Earlville and Bayview Heights. It is also worth noting that the Woree rate improved from 61.4% in 2016 to 75% in 2018, making it on par with the state measure.



INDICATOR 3  
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE RATE AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE REGION

SA2	SCHOOL	STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE			
		ALL STUDENTS		INDIGENOUS STUDENTS	
		2015	2018	2015	2018
QLD STATE	ALL SCHOOLS	92.3%	91.5%	85.7%	84.4%
Earlville - Bayview Heights	Our Lady Help of Christians School (Prep-6)	95%	92%	92%	84%
Bentley Park	Bentley Park College	87%	86%	80%	78%
	St Therese's School	95%	91%	94%	86%
Edmonton	Hambledon State School	92%	91%	90%	88%
	Isabella State School	91%	91%	86%	87%
Gordonvale	Cairns Adventists College	95%	91%	94%	84%
	Djarragun College	74%	75%	74%	75%
	Gordonvale State High School	88%	87%	83%	81%
	Gordonvale State School	91%	88%	86%	82%
White Rock	St Michael's School	95%	88%	85%	76%
	Trinity Anglican State School	95%	93%	92%	86%
Mount Sheridan	White Rock State School	91%	90%	89%	85%
	nil				
Woree	St Gerard Majella Primary School	95%	94%	90%	89%
	St Marys Catholic College	94%	91%	92%	84%
	Woree State High	86%	81%	82%	77%
	Woree State School	89%	90%	83%	86%

Source: MySchool data 2018

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

COMMENTARY

Attendance at school is critical to achieving learning outcomes and a lack of attendance has the potential to confound the NAPLAN results. Poor school attendance can be linked to a number of related short and long-term adverse outcomes for students including lower academic outcomes, early school leaving, substance use, poverty, unemployment and negative health outcomes. However, these factors may be interrelated in complex ways and the factors that lead to low levels of attendance may also independently lead to some of these adverse outcomes (Department of Education, Training and Employment 2013).

In the period from 2015 to 2018, the state attendance rates dropped slightly. In general, rates of school attendance for the Southern Corridor schools remained the same or slightly decreased from 2015 to 2018 for overall student populations. School attendance rates for Indigenous students, however, have tended to decrease from 2015 to 2018 and this warrants further school by school analysis to understand the reasons for this change.

INDICATOR 4  
READING & NUMERACY STANDARDS YEAR 3

NAPLAN (IN 2015 & 2018): THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 3 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING) THE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD FOR READING

	AUS	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
READING 2018	97%	93.5%	97%	94.5%	84.8%	-	98.5%	91.5%
READING 2015	96%	90.0%	95.1%	87.3%	89.5%	-	94.4%	94.6%

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

	AUS	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUNDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
NUMERACY 2018	98%	93.5%	100%	95%	92.3%	-	99.5%	94.5%
NUMERACY 2015	96%	93.9%	100%	88.4%	93.4%	-	97.7%	96.5%

Source: 2018 NAPLAN data

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

COMMENTARY

Education is fundamentally important to the 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 – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This tool is administered by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

In 2018, the percentage of Year 3 students who are meeting or exceeding the national minimum standard for reading within the Southern Corridor communities is variable. The communities of Earlville -Bayview Heights (97%) and White Rock (98.5%) are on par or above the national rate (97%), while Gordonvale -Trinity is significantly below (84.8%).

Since the 2016 report, all the Southern Corridor communities have improved their rate with the exception being Gordonvale- Trinity and Woree which have dropped below the 2016 rate for reading during the period.

In 2018, the percentage of Year 3 students who are meeting or exceeding the national minimum standard for numeracy within the Southern Corridor communities was variable compared to the national measure (98%). As in 2016, in 2018 the communities of Earlville -Bayview Height (100%) and White Rock (99.5%) have continued to perform well against the national numeracy measure (98%).

In line with the 2016 report, the remaining Southern Corridor communities in 2018 continue to perform below the national measure with the exception of Woree which in 2015 had a rate of 96.5%. This rate has dropped in 2018 to a rate of 94.5% compared to the national rate of 98%.

INDICATOR 4  
READING & NUMERACY STANDARDS YEAR 5

NAPLAN (IN 2015 & 2018): THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 5 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING) THE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD FOR READING

	AUS	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
READING 2018	97%	93.5%	100%	91.5%	81.8%	-	94.5%	92%
READING 2015	95%	95.7%	100%	86.9%	92.1%	-	95%	93.5%

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

	AUS	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUNDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
NUMERACY 2018	97.0%	95.0%	100%	92.0%	82.0%	-	95.5%	98.0%
NUMERACY 2015	97.0%	95.7%	93.9%	92.2%	92.5%	-	98%	96.7%

Source: 2018 NAPLAN data

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

COMMENTARY

In 2018, since the 2016 report, the percentage of children in Year 5 that were meeting or exceeding the national standard for reading within all the Southern Corridor communities has dropped. The community of Earville-Bayview Heights in 2018 had a result of 100% of students meeting that national measure (97%), while the communities of Bentley Park (93.5%), Edmonton (91.5%), Gordonvale-Trinity (81.8%) White Rock (94.5%) and Woree (92%) were all below the national measure for reading.

Compared to the 2015 data for Year 5 reading, two communities have dropped their rates during the reporting period for the 2019 report, these were Bentley Park and White Rock.

In 2018, the percentage of children in Year 5 that were meeting or exceeding the national standard for numeracy within the Southern Corridor communities has improved since the 2016 report, with Earville-Bayview Heights (100%) and Woree (98%) meeting or exceeding that 2018 national measure (97%). It is worth noting that compared to the 2015 data for Year 5 numeracy, two communities have improved over the reporting period. These communities were Earville-Bayview Heights (100%) and Woree (98%), while the community of White Rock has dropped from a rate of 98% in 2015 to 95.5% in 2018.

INDICATOR 4  
READING & NUMERACY STANDARDS YEAR 7

NAPLAN (IN 2015 & 2018): THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 7 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING) THE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD FOR READING

	AUS	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
READING 2018	96%	89%	-	-	64.5%	-	95%	91.5%
READING 2015	97%	93.7%	-	-	89.0%	-	96.5%	95.6%

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

	AUS	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUNDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
NUMERACY 2018	97%	95%	-	-	73%	-	97%	95%
NUMERACY 2015	98%	89.4%	-	-	97.1%	-	100%	96.7%

Source: 2018 NAPLAN data

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

COMMENTARY

In 2018, the percentage of children in Year 7 who met or exceeded the national measure for reading and numeracy was consistent with the 2015 results. All of the Southern Corridor communities were below the national measure for reading (96%) and numeracy (97%) with the exception of White Rock which in 2015 had 100% of their students meet or exceed the national measure of 98% for numeracy. This pattern continues in 2018 with 97% of students in White Rock meeting or exceeding the national measure of 97%.

It is worth noting that in 2018, while many of Southern Corridor communities are close to the national measure for numeracy and reading at Year 7, Gordonvale appears to be underperforming in both measures, and warrants further enquiry.



INDICATOR 4  
READING & NUMERACY STANDARDS YEAR 9

NAPLAN (IN 2015 & 2018): THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 9 MEETING (OR EXCEEDING) THE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD FOR READING

	AUS	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
READING 2018	95%	83%	-	-	51%	-	100%	85.5%
READING 2015	94%	85%	-	-	80.8%	-	100%	85.6%

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

	AUS	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON & SURROUNDS	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
NUMERACY 2018	97%	93%	-	-	75.5%	-	100%	94%
NUMERACY 2015	97%	95.0%	-	-	94.9%	-	100%	97%

Source: 2018 NAPLAN data

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

COMMENTARY

Consistent with the findings for students in Year 7, in 2018, the percentage of Year 9 students in the Southern Corridor communities who met or exceeded the national measure for reading (95%) and numeracy (97%) was below the national measure. With the exception of White Rock (which has 100% of students meeting the target for reading and numeracy in both 2015 and 2018), all other Southern Corridor communities were well below the targets in 2018, particularly Gordonvale-Trinity (51%).

INDICATOR 5  
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)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON- VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015	88.1%	85.6%	82.0%	77.2%	86.7%	81.5%	82.9%	86.4%	75.6%	76.6%
2011	80.1%	75.7%	71.5%	75.4%	73.5%	71.2%	76.6%	74.9%	67.7%	54.3%

Source: 2015 ABS Census

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

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.

In 2015, the percentage of young people who were either working or learning within the Cairns LGA (82.0%) is lower than the state (85.6%) and national (88.15%) measure.

Within the Southern Corridor communities in 2015, the results were variable compared to the Cairns LGA region, with Earlvile-Bayview Heights (86.7%), Gordonvale-Trinity (82.9%) and Mount Sheridan (86.4%) having higher rates than the Cairns LGA region (82.0%).

This pattern is consistent with the 2011 data in which Earlvile-Bayview Heights (73.4%), Gordonvale-Trinity (76.6%) and Mount Sheridan (74.9%) and Bentley Park (75.4%) were all performing well against the 2011 Cairns LGA measure (71.5%).

It is worth noting that for the period 2011 to 2015, the percentages of young people who were learning or earning improved across all communities.





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

1. FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES MODEL  
GOOD CITIZENSHIP

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

2. INTERNET CONNECTION

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



INDICATOR 1  
FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES MODEL  
GOOD CITIZENSHIP

THE PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS ALL AGES WHO UNDERTOOK VOLUNTARY WORK

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015	18.8%	18.5%	16.3%	19.0%	16.2%	19.8%	18.6%	14.0%	13.7%
2011	18.7%	17.6%	15.9%	18.7%	14.7%	18.6%	17.2%	13.8%	14%

Source: 2011 ABS Census Data

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

COMMENTARY

Research reveals that the higher the social capital is 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.

In 2015, the percentage of people (all ages) who undertook volunteer work for the Cairns LGA (18.5%) was comparable with the state rate (18.8%). Within the Southern Corridor communities in 2015, there is a high degree of variability ranging from Woree (13.7%) to Gordonvale -Trinity (19.8%). Consistent with the rate change for Queensland from 2011 to 2015, all of the Southern Corridor communities' rates of voluntary work have increased, with the exception of Woree which has dropped slightly over the period.

INDICATOR 2  
INTERNET CONNECTION

THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION

	QLD	CAIRNS LGA	BENTLEY PARK (SA2)	BAYVIEW HEIGHTS/ EARLVILLE	EDMONTON	GORDON-VALE/ TRINITY	MOUNT SHERIDAN	WHITE ROCK	WOREE
2015	83.7%	82.3%	86.0%	78.7%	81.2%	82.7%	87.8%	78.5%	71.3%
2011	78.3%	77.8%	83.2%	75.6%	76.6%	74.2%	84.6%	73.8%	66.2%

Source: 2015 ABS, Census Data

TARGET DIRECTION



INCREASE

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 increased integration of online channels (as opposed to offline 'real-world' channels) for participation (DEET, 2010).

This is reflective of the data which indicates an increase in the percentage of dwellings with internet access across all Southern Corridor communities. Information on the percentage of children and young people having access to the internet was not available, therefore the percentage of the total occupied private dwelling with an internet connection has been used in this report. It is not possible to determine from this data if these dwellings do or do not have children and youth living in them.

In 2015, the rates of people with access to the internet within a private dwelling are slightly lower in the Cairns LGA (82.3%) than the state (83.7%). Based on both the 2011 and 2015 data, a significant number of the Southern Corridor communities do not have access to the internet in private dwellings. However, it is important to note that all communities in the Southern Corridor have increased rates of access to the internet during the period of the reports.

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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. HOMELESSNESS

<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2049.0Explanatory%20Notes12016?OpenDocument>

This publication presents estimates of the prevalence of homelessness on Census night, derived from the Census of Population and Housing using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) definition of homelessness. Prevalence is an estimate of how many people experienced homelessness at a particular point-in-time. The ABS uses six homeless operational groups to present the estimates of homelessness. Estimates are also presented for selected groups of people who may be marginally housed and whose living arrangements are close to the statistical boundary of homelessness and who may be at risk of homelessness.

Under the ABS definition, a person is homeless if they do not have suitable accommodation alternatives and their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate;
- 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.

### 5. NORTHERN QUEENSLAND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NETWORK (NQPHN), COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE 2019

Drawn from the NQPHN community needs analysis. It is worth noting that the NQPHN area reaches from Mackey to Torres Strait Island inclusive.

### 6. PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT (PHIDU), UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

Available at <http://phidu.torrens.edu.au/publications#xjBTYswFcjaUmAy2.97>

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

Percentage of young people aged 15-19 years who are either working or learning (attending school, Vocational Training or University)

### 7. 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>.

Early Childhood education Indicator: - The majority of preschool attendance data is obtained using school's enrolment data during pre-population for the AEDC. "Attended a pre-school program" is an AEDC variable indicating whether the child attended a preschool or kindergarten program in the year before entering full-time school

### 8. 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 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)

### 9. MY COMMUNITIES GOVERNMENT DATA SET

[http://www.myhealthycommunities.gov.au/Content/publications/downloads/NHPA\\_HC\\_Report\\_Imm\\_Rates\\_February\\_2016.pdf?t=14562787211](http://www.myhealthycommunities.gov.au/Content/publications/downloads/NHPA_HC_Report_Imm_Rates_February_2016.pdf?t=14562787211)

10. 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 and Semester 1 2018. This data is sourced from <https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia-data-portal/student-attendance#View2>

11. 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](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.

12. NATIONAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE AUTHORITY ANALYSIS OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION REGISTER STATISTICS

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

13. 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>

14. 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>

15. QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PERINATAL DATA COLLECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Prepared by: Statistical Reporting & Coordination, Statistical Services Branch, Department of Health

16. QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE PUBLICLY REPORTED DATA

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

Rate of Victims of Offences Against the Person

1. Rates are expressed per 100,000 persons and are calculated based on (SA2 Polsis data ) estimated residential population as at 30 June of each year.
2. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
3. The Statistics provided do not represent a unique person count, as a person may be the victim of more than one offence within the reference period.
4. The information displayed in this table may vary from data published on [www.data.qld.gov.au](http://www.data.qld.gov.au) (open data website). Information published on the open data website is only updated at the beginning of each month. Additional information may be added or edited to QPRIME records since being published.

Child Abuse Substantiation

Substantiated definition: The outcome of an investigation and assessment where it is assessed that the child or young person has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering future, significant harm

Notes

1. Counts notifications recorded during the reference period, where an investigation and assessment has been finalised and the outcome was recorded as substantiated.
2. Rates per 1,000 are based on estimated resident population for Queenslanders aged 0-17 years, as at 30 June of the previous year.
3. If a child is subject to more than one substantiation in the period, the child is counted only once.
4. The intended purpose for the use of the data is: To update previously provided data which is used to populate a report by Child & Family Committee in FNQ, Mission Australia, Working Visions and Communities for Children (CfC) Cairns South.
5. Use of the data is only for the purpose intended in the request and cannot be forwarded to a third party without prior approval of System Performance.
  - (a) LGA
  - (b) SA2
  - (c) Indigenous community name

Child Protection Orders

Notes:

1. Rates per 1,000 are based on estimated resident population for Queenslanders aged 0-17 years, as at 30 June of the previous year.
2. The intended purpose for the use of the data is: To update previously provided data which is used to populate a report by Child & Family Committee in FNQ, Mission Australia, Working Visions and Communities for Children (CfC) Cairns South.
3. Use of the data is only for the purpose intended in the request and cannot be forwarded to a third party without prior approval of System Performance.
  - (a) LGA
  - (b) SA2
  - (c) Indigenous community name



Children in out-of-home care

Notes:

- 1. Counts the number of children in out-of-home care (including foster carers, provisionally approved carers, kinship carers and residential care services).
- 2. Rates per 1,000 are based on estimated resident population for Queenslanders aged 0-17 years, as at 30 June of the previous year.
- 3. The intended purpose for the use of the data is: To update previously provided data which is used to populate a report by Child & Family Committee in FNQ, Mission Australia, Working Visions and Communities for Children (CfC) Cairns South.
- 4. Use of the data is only for the purpose intended in the request and cannot be forwarded to a third party without prior approval of System Performance.
  - (a) LGA
  - (b) SA2
  - (c) Indigenous community name

Definitions

Out-of-home care

The provision of care outside the family home to children who are in need of protection or who require a safe placement while their protection and safety needs are assessed. In accordance with nationally agreed upon reporting definitions, data for out-of-home care refers to children placed with kin, other home-based carers or residential care services.

Foster Carer

A person approved by the department to provide care in their own home for children and young people who have experienced harm or are at risk of harm. This can be for short or long periods.

Kinship Carer

A person who is related to the child or a member of the child's community who is considered a close family friend, who has been approved by the department to provide family-based care for the child. Kinship carers are approved for a specific child.

Residential care services

Non-family-based accommodation and support services funded by the department to provide placement and support for children. These residential services provide daily care and support for children from a house parent or rostered residential care workers model.

APPENDIX 2  
COMPLETE LIST OF  
INDICATORS USED IN  
THIS REPORT

CHILDREN WITH LONE PARENTS

- Percentage of children who live in families with lone parents

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 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 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 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 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 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 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),

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 the 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 daycare before going to school for the first time

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Percentage of 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



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