



## Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas




**With nearly 8 million children and young people in Australia, their wellbeing and future productivity form the cornerstone upon which Australia's future is built.**

Unfortunately, important data on this demographic are scattered across various locations within our country and its jurisdictions, presenting a significant challenge to obtain a comprehensive understanding of children and young people without considerable investment in both effort and resources.

The lack of a centralised source for information has made it impossible to paint a holistic picture of children and young people, hindering the ability to make effective, efficient, and evidence-based decisions. To address this issue, we have created the world's first atlas focusing specifically on the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Australia.

The Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas is a freely available data asset that maps information on children and young people in communities across Australia. This enables the visualisation, analysis, and monitoring of health and wellbeing metrics for children and young people.

The Atlas empowers researchers, community, state and Commonwealth organisations and the not-for-profit sector to identify priorities for child and youth wellbeing in meaningful and cost-effective ways.

The proof-of-concept Atlas was launched in November 2023  [www.australianchildatlas.com](http://www.australianchildatlas.com)



## Future priorities

The Partnership is seeking financial and in-kind support for the next phase of the project with the following deliverables:



Unlocking state and territory-specific data at smaller community levels



Including non-administrative data, e.g. insights from surveys and cohort data



Introducing additional functionality, such as the overlay of maps and indicators



Creating automated community-level reports



Establishing a routine reporting mechanism at state and national levels to enable monitoring of children's wellbeing outcomes



Incorporating data from First Nations children and young people while adhering to Indigenous data sovereignty and governance processes



Meaningful involvement of children and young people in both governance and design aspects



Identifying and advocating for data deserts and gaps, emphasising a comprehensive approach to data coverage and access

## Wellbeing Domains

The Atlas defines children's health and wellbeing in the context of the evidence-based Nest framework of child and youth wellbeing developed by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) which includes six wellbeing domains:



Valued, loved, and safe



Material basics



Healthy



Learning



Participation



Positive sense of identity and culture



Contact Us  
[info@australianchildatlas.com](mailto:info@australianchildatlas.com)

## Our Partnership

The Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas brings together leading experts across Australia's child research, advocacy, policy and practice fields.

The partnership has formed with unprecedented motivation to deliver on a shared mission to transform how data is accessed and used to promote children's health and wellbeing outcomes and achieve equity for all Australian children and young people.



For the complete list of partners, go to:  
[australianchildatlas.com/our-partners](http://australianchildatlas.com/our-partners)

## Inclusions

The Atlas has identified and documented the key data collections nationally and within each jurisdiction that are highly comparable across states and territories. This allows for effective monitoring of trends and outcomes for children and young people, in line with existing frameworks. The proof-of-concept Atlas includes a diverse range of data:



### Valued, loved and safe:

Positive peer relationships, Family conflict, Seeking support, Safe environments, Youth justice, Child protection, Children as victims of crime.



### Material basics:

Housing amenity, SEIFA, Stable housing, youth unemployment.



### Healthy:

Births and Health at birth, Physical health, Mental health, Injury, Hospital admissions, Mortality, ED presentations.



### Learning:

Early childhood education and care, AEDC, NAPLAN, School attendance, Youth participation in education, Sense of belonging at school.



### Participation:

Voting enrolment, Volunteering, Connection to community.



### Identity and culture:

Country of birth, Language, Religion.

The Atlas enhances the accessibility and discoverability of these key data collections across Australia, consolidating them into a custom visualising platform.

By enabling equitable access to this information, the Atlas contributes to 'the democratisation of data', fostering a more inclusive and informed society. The platform ensures that information is easily accessible to everyone, breaking down barriers related to geographic location, socio-economic status, or other factors.

## Opportunities

This exciting initiative breaks through traditional ways of using data to ensure Commonwealth, state and community-level decisions that affect children and young people are informed by best practice research and a data driven evidence-base.

To achieve this, the partnership seeks financial and in-kind support from like-minded entities sharing the vision for an integrated and equitable approach to data in child health and wellbeing across Australia.

Additional contributions will expedite the next project phase, unlocking local data across all states and territories, implementing advanced functionality and enhancing bespoke capabilities in visualisation and reporting across the platform.



Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas