



## The 360-Kids Community network

A quarter of Australian children are developmentally vulnerable at entry to school (Australian Early Development Census). The social, wellbeing, and developmental challenges they face increase their lifelong risks for poor health and academic outcomes. Without prevention or early intervention these children are at much greater risk for lifestyle-related chronic disease, health, social and educational challenges. These challenges add tens of billions of dollars to public costs each year.

Children living in circumstances of disadvantage are at greater risk of missing out on early prevention opportunities that could improve their health, social inclusion, school engagement and learning opportunities.

The 360-Kids Community Network program seeks to address this issue by equipping all children and young people with the foundations for optimal health and development trajectories that deliver the best opportunities in life. In doing so, the aim is also to reduce the need for costly health and welfare interventions.

To achieve these aims, the network will harness the 360-approach to reimagine the way we support the health and wellbeing of children within our community prior to school entry. We will focus on children (e.g., those at high risk of child protection; those with developmental vulnerabilities) and communities (e.g., high disadvantage), partnering with community groups and key support agencies.

This Program aligns with the National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People: 2020-2030.

### Our Partners

**Children's Health Queensland:** A specialist state-wide hospital and health service dedicated to caring for our children and young people. The Division of Child and Youth Community Health Services directly manage the integrated community hub, the Yarrabilba Family and Community Place delivering a broad range of health, education and social services for children and families. CYCHS will continue to contribute by facilitating collaborative opportunities and developing promotion and prevention initiatives in communities with high levels of vulnerability. CHQ has also recently partnered with UQ to develop an interdisciplinary, student-led allied health clinic informed by research (The Healthy Families project).

**Health and Wellbeing Queensland (HWQId)** Health and Wellbeing Queensland is the state's dedicated public health agency, and works tirelessly to promote healthy weight, reduce the impacts of chronic disease and deliver a more equitable Queensland, especially for our next generation. HWQId engages, partners and collaborates with a breadth of stakeholders using a population-based approach, to scale-up

and leverage evidence-informed and innovative approaches to inform policy, practice and programs to improve population health and reduce health inequities in Queensland.

We are also in early discussion with:

**Thriving Kids Queensland Partnership:** An alliance bringing together researchers, evaluators, policy and program makers, peak bodies, service providers, and health, education, justice and other care professionals and practitioners to facilitate the infusion of neuroscience and other child development-related science into the design and delivery of policy, programs, and practice.

**MICAH:** Micah Projects is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing services and opportunities in the community to create justice and respond to injustice. Micah Projects engages with people experiencing adversity due to poverty, homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence, disability and all forms of discrimination. The service works to support individuals and families, including children, to resolve crisis, break social isolation, have a home, and access health and community services. Micah Projects has developed and conducts innovative inclusive health and community care initiatives with families experiencing complex health needs and challenges, as well as programs with young families (Young Mothers for Young Women), and families involved with the child protection system (Family Inclusion Network).

**Community Living Association:** Supporting people with intellectual and cognitive disabilities and young people at risk to get the most from their lives. The Community Living Program (CLP) was established in 1987 as part of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service.

**Social Ventures Australia:** Social Ventures Australia (SVA) is a not-for-profit organisation that works with partners to alleviate disadvantage – towards an Australia where all people and communities thrive. They aim to influence systems to deliver better social outcomes for people by learning about what works in communities, helping organisations be more effective, sharing their perspectives and advocating for change.

### Further Queries

Professor John Cairney, Program Lead  
E.j.cairney@uq.edu.au

## Facts at a Glance

Through the Vice-Chancellor's Health Research Accelerator (HERA) initiative, the University of Queensland (UQ) is investing in a new health and medical research model and capabilities to address the most pressing health and medical research challenges of our time.



**\$50M**

UQ commitment to the HERA Programs to recruit outstanding researchers



**115+**

UQ researchers and collaborations



**75+**

Partner organisations involved in one or more HERA program



**9**

UQ Faculties and Institutes contributing expertise



**7**

HERA programs of Research and Innovation

