



The Kids in Communities Study (KiCS)

# Community Profile 2018

## Generic [This Community]

August 2018

*This community profile is an example only. Figure and Table data presented in this document are fabricated for example purposes.*



# Thank you

The [KiCS Collaboration](#) includes many Australian and international universities, and government and non-government partner organisations. The initial work for data collection and analysis was funded by an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant (LP130100411) led by The University of Melbourne. Generous in-kind and financial support from partner organisations is gratefully acknowledged. From this work, the Australian Government Department of Social Services funded the development of a draft set of Foundational Community Factors (FCFs) for early childhood development. We are thankful to our many stakeholders and participants, for providing their time and assistance in this project. The full set of acknowledgements are available in the **KiCS Foundational Community Factors (FCF) Report**.

## Contact

If you have any queries about this study, please contact [kics.study@mcri.edu.au](mailto:kics.study@mcri.edu.au) or visit our website at [www.mcri.edu.au/kics](http://www.mcri.edu.au/kics).

## Suggested citation

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# Additional resources

- **Australian Bureau of Statistics:** Basic or General Community Profiles 2011
- **The Australian Early Development Census:** <https://www.aedc.gov.au/communities>
- **Dropping Off the Edge (DOTE):** <https://dote.org.au/>
- The full **KiCS FCF Report** is available here: <https://www.mcri.edu.au/kics> and should be read in conjunction with this profile. The report contains the full set of FCFs with examples and explanations on how they may influence ECD.
- The **KiCS FCF Manual** (draft) is designed for local community organisations wanting to measure the FCFs for early childhood. Contact us for more information.



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# About this Profile

Healthy early child development (ECD) provides the basis for lifelong health and wellbeing.(1) Communities can impact the healthy development of children – the physical environment, social environment, socio-economic factors, access to services, and local governance – may promote or hinder good development.(2)

This Profile provides information about community factors important for young children in *your* community. The results are based on the Kids in Communities Study (KiCS), an Australian investigation of community-level factors influencing ECD. KiCS set out to explore what it is about where you live that makes a difference to ECD. Using the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), a national population progress measure of ECD,(3) we investigated local community-level factors that were consistently related to better outcomes for children. This provided the basis for a series of promising **Foundational Community Factors (FCFs)** (and indicators). This profile summarises the FCFs for ECD specific to [this Community].



**Foundational Community Factors (FCFs)** are factors that lay the foundations of a good community for young children

This Profile is designed to be read closely with the **KiCS FCF Report** available at <https://www.mcri.edu.au/kics>. The report contains much more detail on each FCF, how, and why they were chosen. It also discusses the limitations of the findings. Specific local communities that are outlined in each Profile are not identified in the FCF report.

## How to use information in this profile

The results point to key areas of focus (i.e. the FCFs) that are important for families with young children. FCFs are potential points of intervention that are worth further investigation. When exploring your community results, you may wish to consider:

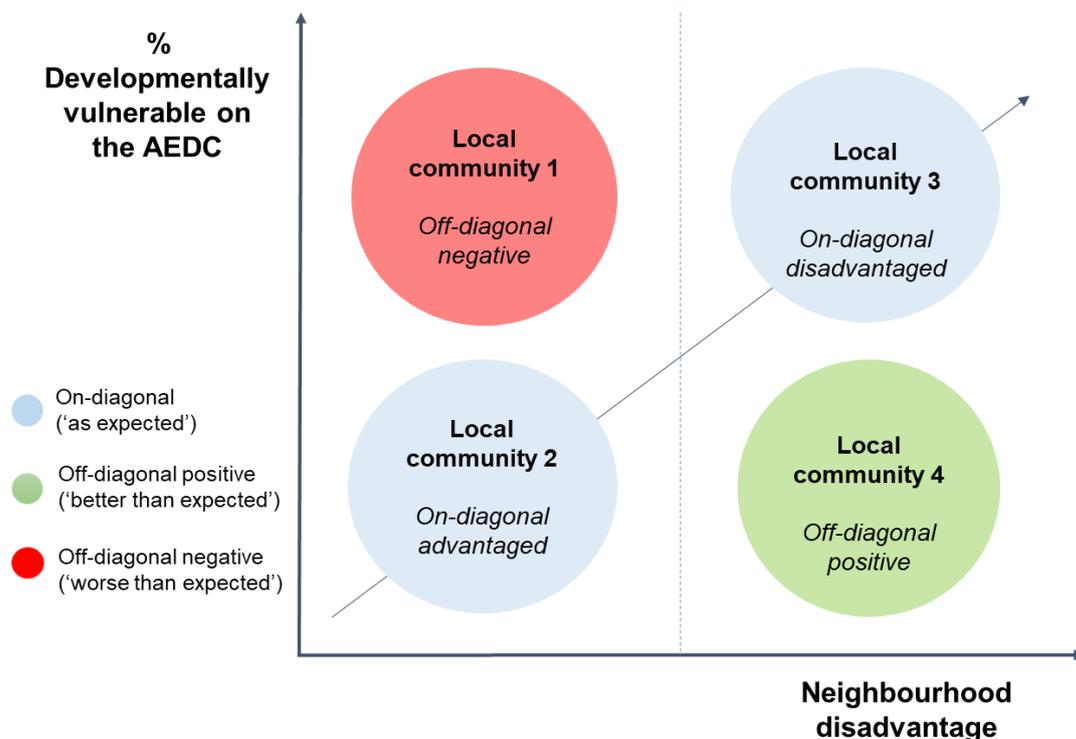
- Can this information help with planning local place-based strategies?
- Can this information be used to inform your local State of Children's report?
- Which FCFs can be prioritised in the short-term or long-term?
- Are there stakeholders you can collaborate with to help address the FCFs and better support children's development in the early years?
- It is worth collecting more information on the FCFs now or in the future?

# About [this Community]

## Local communities

KiCS collected information for 25 AEDC local communities (suburbs) across Victoria (VIC), New South Wales (NSW), South Australia (SA), Queensland (QLD), and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) clustered within 11 larger AEDC communities (or local government areas). The AEDC results showed us that there were suburbs performing better or worse (“off-diagonal”), or as expected (“on-diagonal”) on the AEDC relative to their socio-economic status (SES) (**Figure 1**). This told us that good early childhood development was more complex than just how socio-economically advantaged your community is. We wanted to learn more about what and how communities could influence child development.

Three local communities from [this Community] participated in KiCS: Local Community 2, Local Community 3 and Local Community 4. There is one community pair matched on disadvantage – one local community has *better* ECD scores (Local Community 4) than the other (Local Community 3) despite both being similarly socioeconomically disadvantaged. There is one unmatched local community (Local Community 2); this means that there is no comparison community.



**Figure 1. On- and off-diagonal local communities**

AEDC: Australian Early Development Census; Developmentally vulnerable: % developmentally vulnerable on at least 1 (of 5) AEDC domains; Neighbourhood disadvantage: Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD)

## Context

The [Community] local government area is located approximately 10km from the City Centre. **Table 1** shows some key community demographics.

**Table 1. Demographic information about this community**

Community Demographics	Local Community 4 <i>Off-diagonal positive</i>	Local Community 3 <i>On-diagonal disadvantaged</i>	Local Community 2 <i>On-diagonal advantaged</i>
Population	<i>Cells in this table are intentionally left blank</i>		
Size (km <sup>2</sup> )			
Male			
Female			
Median age (years)			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people			
Unemployment			
Family demographics			
Average children per family			
Single parent families (children under 15 years)			
Couple parent families (children under 15 years)			
Median total family household income (weekly) (\$)			
Child demographics			
Children 0-4 years (count)			
Children 5-9 years (count)			
DOTe 2015 data			
*Readiness Schooling <sup>1</sup>			
Y3 Numeracy <sup>1</sup>			
Y3 Reading <sup>1</sup>			
#Child Maltreatment (rate per 1,000)			
^Domestic violence (rate per 1,000)			
Mode of transport to work			
Public transport			
Car			
Walk			

**Sources:** ABS: 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics Basic or General Community Profiles; DOTe: Dropping Off the Edge (<https://dote.org.au/>); <sup>1</sup>Rank within 700 localities in State/Territory. Lower numbers signify greater disadvantage; \***Readiness Schooling:** Proportion of children tested for language and cognitive skills (school-based) and assessed as being developmentally vulnerable in each counting area; #**Child Maltreatment:** Rate of confirmed maltreatment of a child per 1,000 of children and young people under 15 years of age living in each counting area; ^**Domestic violence:** Rate of domestic/family violence orders per 1,000 population aged 18-64 years in each counting area

## KiCS data collection for [this Community]

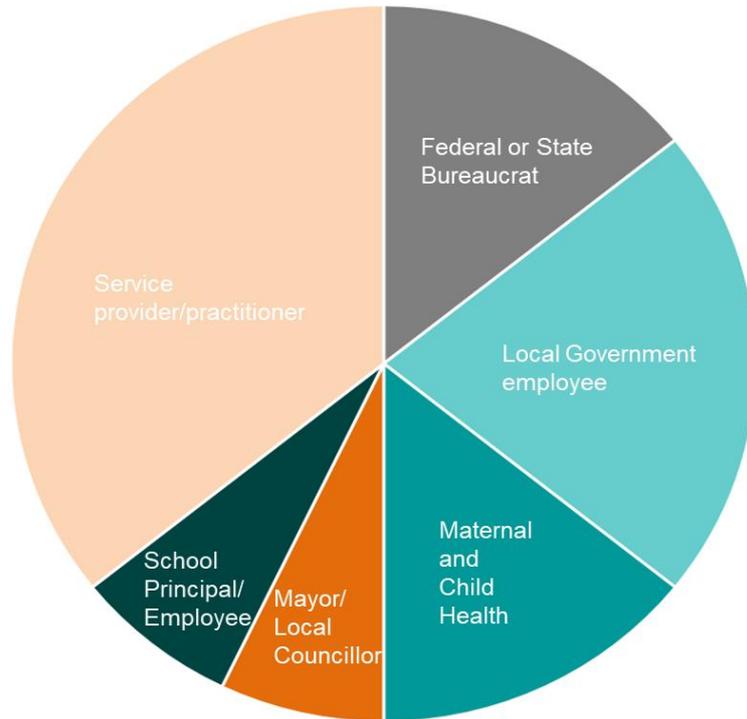
KiCS data for [this Community] were collected between 2015-2017. **Table 2** provides a snapshot of participant data collection for [this Community]. While KiCS collected other types of data such as surveys from general community residents and service providers, low response rates and lack of sample representativeness meant the data from these sources were not reliable for use in the overall study, and not included in this Profile.

**Table 2. Field work for [this Community] local communities**

Summary of KiCS fieldwork	Total [this Community]	Local Community 4 <i>Off-diagonal positive</i>	Local Community 3 <i>On-diagonal disadvantaged</i>	Local Community 2 <i>On-diagonal advantaged</i>
Key stakeholder interviewees	19			
Focus groups with local service providers	3	1  10	1  7	1  7
Focus groups with parents of children aged 0-8 years	3	1  6	1  8	1  6
Community survey responses	456	137	126	193
Service survey responses with local service providers	17	8	5	4

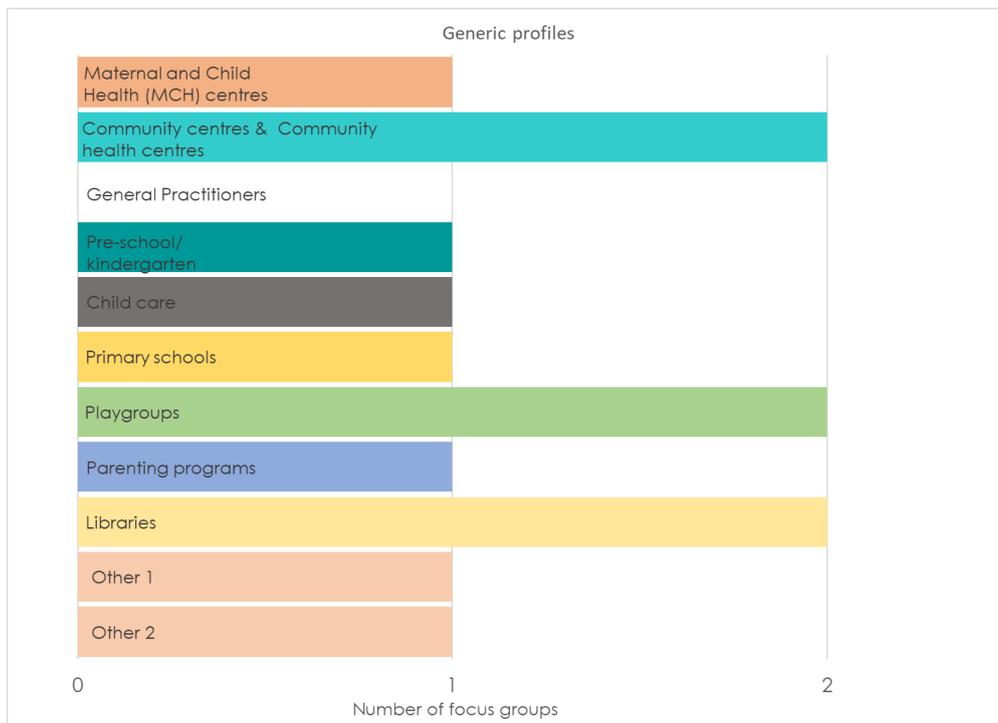
 Number of total participants for focus groups; \*cell numbers are fabricated for example purposes

**Figure 2 and Figure 3** shows the diverse role types of interview and service provider focus group participants respectively. For interviews and focus groups, a range of stakeholders and service providers participated. Some participants may have multiple roles.



**Figure 2. Interview participants by role type**

*\*Figure is example only*



**Figure 3. Focus group (service provider) participants by role type**

Other: Community Support Services, Allied health service provider; *\*Figure is example only*

# What are [this Community]'s FCFs?

## Factors that made a difference in disadvantaged communities

KiCS compared two types of neighbouring disadvantaged local communities; one with 'better than expected' ECD outcomes (off-diagonal positive) and the other with 'as expected' ECD outcomes (on-diagonal disadvantaged). For [this Community], Local Community 4 had better ECD (AEDC) outcomes than Local Community 3, despite both being socio-economically disadvantaged.



In KiCS there were 7 Pairs of communities matched on disadvantage (i.e. off-diagonal positive vs on-diagonal disadvantaged). This sub-sample was used to explore community factors that were *consistently different* for off-diagonal positive vs on-diagonal disadvantaged local communities in at least 4 of the 7 the Pairs (we call these 'differentiating FCFs'). We found 13 FCFs that *consistently* made a difference for these disadvantaged communities.

Specific to [this Community]:

- All of the 13 KiCS differentiating FCFs were found to make a difference between Local Community 4 and Local Community 3. The direction of the findings of differentiating FCFs were not always as expected (see **Table 3**).
- There may be other community factors that were different between Local Community 4 and Local Community 3, however these factors were *not found in the overall KiCS study as being consistently different* in the overall KiCS sub-sample of disadvantaged local communities with 'better expected'. The idea behind exploring consistent community factors across the majority of communities was to consider different contexts where possible.

**What do the differentiating FCFs tell us?** The results begin to answer the question about why some local communities are doing better in children's ECD despite still being disadvantaged (or vice versa). Both qualitative and quantitative data were used together where possible to provide a better understanding of the complex and dynamic nature of the community context.

**Table 3. Differentiating Foundational Community Factors between Local Community 4 (off-diagonal positive) and Local Community 3 (on-diagonal disadvantaged)**

**Key:**

Factors that made a difference for disadvantaged local communities with ‘better than expected’ (off-diagonal positive) and ‘expected’ (on-diagonal disadvantaged) child development outcomes.



This finding differentiated the on- and off-diagonal in the expected direction



This finding differentiated the on-and off-diagonal but in the opposite direction than expected

Finding	Quotes from the local community <sup>◇</sup>
<p><b>Income<sup>#</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> • Level of economic diversity is greater in LC4 than LC3<sup>1</sup></li> <li> • Median weekly household income is lesser in LC4 than LC3<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<p><i>Cells in this table are intentionally left blank</i></p>
<p><b>Highest level of schooling</b></p> <p>LC4 had higher levels of Year 12 completed than LC3<sup>2</sup></p>	
<p><b>Gentrification</b></p> <p>Gentrification is occurring more rapidly in LC4 compared to LC3<sup>1</sup></p>	
<p><b>Housing Affordability<sup>#</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> • Housing affordability is becoming more of an issue in LC4 than LC3 because higher SES families moving into area and displacing more disadvantaged groups<sup>1</sup></li> <li> • Housing in LC4 is more desirable leading to less affordable housing in LC3<sup>1</sup></li> <li> • In LC3, a higher proportion of households in the lowest 40% of income distribution spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Housing Tenure</b></p> <p>Lower proportion of renters in LC4 than LC3<sup>2</sup></p>	
<p><b>Public housing</b></p> <p>Presence of public housing is lesser in LC4 than LC3<sup>1*</sup></p>	
<p><b>Housing Density<sup>^</sup> (+/- public housing)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> • Perceived<sup>1</sup> and objective<sup>3</sup> housing density is lower (i.e. 3 or less storeys and more</li> </ul>	

Finding	Quotes from the local community <sup>◊</sup>
 <p>separate houses than townhouses/apartments) in LC4 than LC3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public housing: Compared with LC3, LC4 has more public housing classified as separate houses than townhouses/apartments<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	
 <p><b>Stigma</b> Stigma is less in LC4 than LC3<sup>1</sup></p>	
 <p><b>Crime</b> Lower rates of crime against person in LC4 than LC3<sup>5*</sup></p>	
  <p><b>Early childhood education and care (ECEC) availability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are more perceived ECEC services located in LC4 than LC3<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Lower average density of ECEC services (count/LC km<sup>2</sup>) in LC4 than LC3<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	
 <p><b>Primary School reputation</b> Quality of primary schools is perceived to be better in LC4 than LC3<sup>1</sup></p>	
 <p><b>Historical factors</b> There are (historical) events that are associated with a stronger sense of citizenship and/or participation in LC4 (or there are events that are associated with a weaker sense of citizenship in LC3)<sup>1</sup></p>	
 <p><b>Local decision-making</b> As a result of local decision making, 'novel approaches' or locally tailored initiatives or solutions have been developed in LC4 more than LC3<sup>1</sup></p>	

Refer to KiCS Final report for the full set of measures related to these FCFs. <sup>◊</sup>Quotes provided as examples where relevant.

LC3 Local Community 3 (on-diagonal disadvantaged), LC4 Local Community 4 (off-diagonal positive).

<sup>1</sup>Qualitative (interviews or focus groups), <sup>2</sup>Quantitative ABS Census, <sup>3</sup>Quantitative GIS, <sup>4</sup>Quantitative Survey (N.B. <sup>4</sup> not reliable source of data due to sample representativeness and low response rates) or <sup>5</sup>Quantitative Crime rates.

<sup>^</sup>Housing density is closely linked with public housing in this study; <sup>#</sup>Perceived and objective measure for this FCF does not match; <sup>\*</sup>objective measures were not significantly different between on- and off-diagonal; <sup>\*</sup>perceived measures were not significantly different between on- and off-diagonal. <sup>\*</sup>Cells in this table are intentionally left blank

## Important Foundational Community Factors for [this community]

KiCS identified some FCFs that were considered important for young families and children in local communities regardless of whether the community was doing better, worse or as expected in ECD relative to their socio-economic status. These are called



**Important FCFs.** This means that all 25 local communities in KiCS were explored, including the 3 local communities in [this Community].

- While there are likely to be differences *within and between* communities, factors considered to be consistently important for ECD were those that appeared in at least 16 of the 25 local communities. A total of 9 Important FCFs were found.
- The Important FCFs emerged from the qualitative data only (focus groups and interviews with stakeholders, service providers and parents) highlighting factors *perceived* to be important for families with young children.
- **Table 4** shows the findings for each of the three local communities in [this Community] for these 9 Important FCFs.

**What do the important FCFs tell us?** The findings show community-level factors that are consistently noted as important for families and young children. This is despite whether the community performed better, worse or as expected compared to their level of disadvantage/advantage.

Like the differentiating FCFs, many community-level factors were explored in KiCS. However, **Table 4** shows only the [this Community]-specific results for factors *consistently found to be important* in the overall study. The idea behind exploring consistent community factors across most of communities was to take into account different contexts where possible.

**Table 4. Important factors for [this Community]**

**Key:**

-  This factor was perceived as being important for the local community
-  This factor was considered 'neutral' for the local community e.g. people raised this issue but did not say it was important/unimportant
-  This factor was perceived as not being important for the local community
-  Not enough data/this factor was not raised in the discussion

Important Factors <sup>◇</sup>	Local Community 4 <i>Off-diagonal positive</i>	Local Community 3 <i>On-diagonal disadvantaged</i>	Local Community 2 <i>On-diagonal advantaged</i>
<b>Physical access to services</b> Reported instances of ability to get to health, education and social services from suburb			
<b>Walkability</b> Perceived walkability to facilities and services was seen as important for physical access  <i>[quote]</i>			
<b>Public transport availability</b> Perceived presence of/ access to public transport was seen as important for easy access within the suburb			
<b>Traffic exposure</b> Being away from traffic within the suburb is an important factor for children being safe			
<b>Public open space - availability and quality</b> Having parks in the suburb was seen as important for young children and families. Having good quality parks was seen as important for use, play and social interaction  <i>[quote]</i>			
<b>Facilities - availability and diversity</b> Having a range of family-friendly destinations and activities is important for young families and children			
<b>Cost of Services (especially ECEC)</b> Perceived affordability of education services is considered important and affects use			

Important Factors <sup>◇</sup>	Local Community 4 <i>Off-diagonal positive</i>	Local Community 3 <i>On-diagonal disadvantaged</i>	Local Community 2 <i>On-diagonal advantaged</i>
<i>[quote]</i>			
<b>Locally based group</b> The presence of a locally-based group that actively works on building social cohesion or engaging in the community in tailored initiatives or solutions			
<b>Leadership</b> The presence of local champions, leaders and boundary spanners driving local governance			
<i>[quote]</i>			

Important factors are based on qualitative data (interviews and focus groups) only. <sup>◇</sup>Quotes provided as examples where relevant. \*Cells in this table are fabricated for example purposes only

# What next?

Having local information on the FCFs can assist your community in better understanding what facilitates or hinders ECD across the community, identify their resources and opportunities to improve, thus helping to direct community effort into areas that make the most sense for better child outcomes.

- **Interested on comparing local communities?** You may want to think about *why* the FCF is different or similar between communities and what initiatives or interventions your community may want to implement to help address the FCF.
- **Interested in monitoring or collecting data over time?** Your community may be interested in ‘monitoring’ how your community fares against each FCF over time. If you’re interested in measuring FCFs, the supplementary [KiCS FCF Manual](#) is available to be tested by interested communities.



## Conclusion

The list of differentiating and important FCFs signal areas of focus for ECD. The FCFs contributes to the evidence base on community-level influences on ECD. While we tried to find community factors that were consistent across the majority of our KiCS local communities, our findings highlight that the FCFs cannot always be generalised to all communities or all groups seeing as there may be differences within as well as between local communities.

*Having both qualitative and quantitative methods can provide a more in-depth understanding of the FCFs associated with ECD outcomes in communities*

Quantitative data provides the ‘what’ and the scale of the problem; and the qualitative data provides the ‘why’ and what steps can be taken to try to improve outcomes. There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach and no matter what, understanding the needs and context of the community is necessary. The richness and value of having localised community information to better understand the local context and how a range of factors might be operating on young children and families is important if we are to make a difference to ECD outcomes. Such information will inform more specific place-based interventions at the local level, those most likely to be responsive and “work” in your local community.

# References

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