



The 'here and now' for little kids and families in Derby, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park, 2022:

Situational analysis to inform local plans for the
Early Years Partnership's remote community of 'Derby'
comprising Derby, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park

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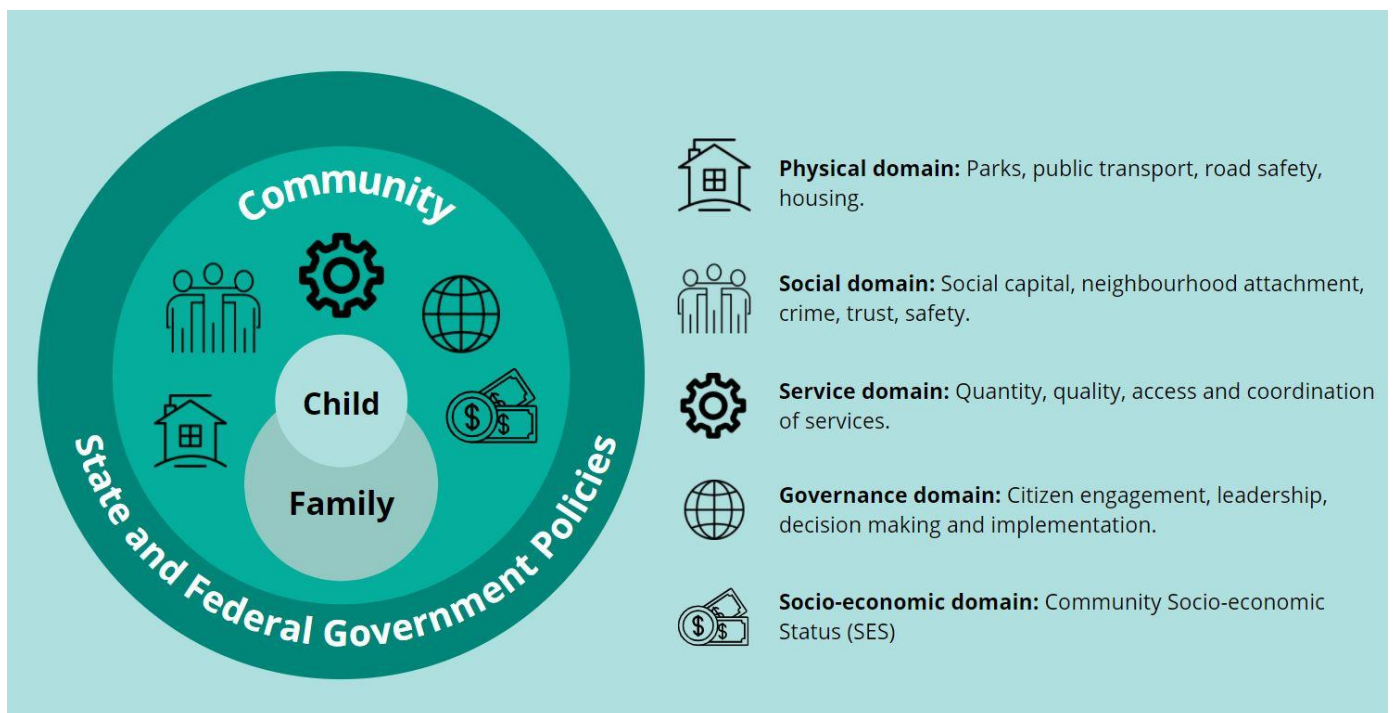
Executive Summary

This Situational Analysis Report provides an overview of the 'here and now' for children and their families living in the Malarabah (Derby) region of the Kimberley, Western Australia. It has been prepared by Telethon Kids Institute so solid and up-to-date information can be placed into the hands of community members to help them decide on early childhood priorities and actions to carry forward. It contains a summary of key themes identified in a range of recent reports and a curated selection of data on young children, families, services and circumstances in and around Derby near the start of 2022.

Section 2 of this report contains quantitative data with supporting commentary on how very young children and their families are faring in and around the Early Years Partnership (EYP) 'remote' partner community of Derby. Where data are not available for Derby, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park in particular, they are provided for the Derby - West Kimberley Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) or the Kimberley region as a whole. To avoid providing so much data that it becomes confusing, the data selected for Section 2 focus on key indicators that, according to research evidence, are worth paying attention to because they have a big impact on children's long-term health, development and learning.

Section 3 focuses on what has been said about the EYP Derby community in a range of recent reports and other information found via 'desktop' searches. These reports have been reviewed from the perspective of what it might be like to be a very young child (or to raise a very young child) in this place at this time, with the analysis framed around five key aspects of the community¹, illustrated below in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Infographic of key elements of this Situational Analysis Report



Adapted from Goldfeld et. al. (2017, p.2), from the Kids in Communities Study (KiCS)¹

¹ Goldfeld, S., Villanueva, K., Lee, J.L., Robinson, R., Moriarty, A., Peel, D., Tanton, R., Giles-Corti, B., Woolcock, G., Brinkman, S., Katz, I. (2017). Foundational Community Factors (FCFs) for Early Childhood Development: A report on the Kids in Communities Study. Accessed 23 December 2021 via <https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ccch/CCCH-KICS-Final-Report-April-2018.pdf>

1. Introduction

Community leaders in the Derby community² have accepted an invitation to work alongside the Western Australian State Government³ and the Minderoo Foundation on the EYP (originally the Early Years Initiative) which will run until 2028. The EYP aims to co-design more effective ways to nurture the health, development and learning of all local children from conception to four years of age.

For the purposes of the EYP and this report, ‘the Derby community’ comprises the township of Derby plus the community of Mowanjum (located 10 kilometres south-east of Derby) and the community of Pandanus Park (located 60 kilometres south of Derby). The Derby community is one of only four communities invited to participate in the EYP. The other three communities are Bidyadanga, the Central Great Southern and a part of Armadale in Perth.

The EYP is focused on very young children because the first 2000-days of life from conception to four years of age are vital in shaping each child’s long-term health, learning, social and language skills, culture and identity. A solid start in this period before they start school lays the ground-work for children to become strong, proud grown-ups who have a good life.

While the EYP is focused on improving outcomes in early childhood, it recognises that children are raised by families who live within dynamic communities so it is intended that actions taken through the EYP will be holistic, culturally responsive and strengths-based. It is hoped that through the EYP over the next few years, insights will emerge about how the State Government and other organisations can better support families and very young children in the four EYP partner communities, and that these insights can be applied at scale to other places in the future.

People living and working in the Derby community are best placed to understand local needs and strengths, and to decide what actions are most likely to work. To assist with these decisions, community leaders have asked for a summary of current ‘here and now’ information on how children and families in this community are going.

“We have it within us, we are our own project managers and researchers. We just need to be connected with leading practice that affirms our cultural position and roles in community so we can be empowered”

(from p. 3 of the Kimberley Aboriginal Women’s Council – Regional Action Plan, 2021)

This Situational Analysis Report has been prepared by Telethon Kids Institute so solid information can be placed into the hands of community members to help them decide on early childhood priorities and actions to carry forward. It contains a selection of publicly-available statistics on factors that, according to research evidence, may impact children’s outcomes plus desktop analysis of numerous reports and regional plans from the Derby or the West Kimberley area over the past decade. The report provides a summary of key themes identified in the reports and a curated selection of the most recent publicly-available data on young children, families, services and circumstances in and around the Derby community near the start of 2022.

It is anticipated that follow-up situational analysis reports for the Derby community will be prepared, incorporating results from future collections of Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data for the Derby community and findings from the independent evaluation of the EYP that Telethon Kids has been asked to conduct.

² Throughout this report, references to the ‘Derby community’ includes the township of Derby, and the Mowanjum and Pandanus Park communities. References to ‘Derby’ on its own relate only to the Derby township.

³ The key State Government departments participating in the EYP are the Departments of Communities, Education and Health, with the Department of Communities as lead agency.

2. Children and families in the Derby community

This section of the report contains a curated selection of quantitative data on young children and families in and around the Derby community near the start of 2022. The data provided in this section have been selected because evidence shows that they are strong predictors of children's long-term health, development and learning.

This section begins with information on the sources, nature and limitations of the data to support accurate interpretation of the statistics (with additional information provided at **Appendix A**). This is followed by a summary 'snapshot' for the Derby community, then a more detailed table supported by commentary outlining the evidence base behind each data item.

2.1 Data sources and limitations

Three main types of data are provided in this report - administrative, AEDC and National Census data. Each has strengths and limitations which mean that some caution needs to be applied in how the data are interpreted.

One important limitation across all these data types is that for communities with small populations, some data may only be publicly available when combined with data for surrounding communities. This is done to ensure individuals cannot be identified in the data. In this report, where data for the Derby community are not available, data for the Derby-West Kimberley Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) or the Kimberley Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) have been used. The Derby-West Kimberley SA2 is essentially the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley.

Particularly sensitive data (e.g.: on the use of illicit drugs or children in out of-home-care) are often only publicly available for the whole State (although agencies may be able to provide summaries of these types of data at a local level for restricted use if requested by local groups), or may not be routinely collected at all.

A further limitation of health and socio-economic data is that it may not reflect Aboriginal world views, reducing the availability of data that is important to the lives and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. This means that the 'picture' presented in the data may not tell the whole story of a community, or may be culturally 'skewed'.

Appendix A provides more detailed information about the data used in this report, as well as maps of the SA2 and SA3 areas.

2.2 Quantitative data on children and families in Derby

Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 Census of Population and Housing (Census), the total population of the Derby community (i.e., the Derby township plus Mowanjum and Pandanus Park) is 3,350. This has dropped from 3,754 in 2016, with both figures adjusted using an 'undercount index' calculated by the ABS to account for an acknowledged undercount of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in the Census. Further, using the ABS undercount index, it is estimated that in the Derby community in 2021:

- 44.3 per cent of residents were Aboriginal people, down from 49.0 per cent in 2016
- there were 249 children in the 0-4 years age-range (down from 338 in 2016), of whom 66 per cent were Aboriginal children.

The following data 'snapshot' contains items that, according to research evidence, may work together to have an impact on children's outcomes. The data are the most recently available statistics from several publicly-available sources including the ABS, the Western Australian Child Development Atlas, the AEDC and the Western Australian Department of Education's Schools OnLine website.

Where possible, the data are specific to the Derby community, however in some cases, they are only available for wider areas. In the snapshot:

- cells with a **D** are specific to the Derby community;
- cells with **W** are for the Derby-West Kimberley SA2 (similar to the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley)
- cells with **K** are the entire Kimberley region.

Table 1 in the pages following the snapshot, provides further details on the data in the snapshot and, for the sake of comparison, includes the Kimberley and Western Australian averages for each data item. As in the snapshot, the location for the data provided in Table 1 is for the Derby community, Derby-West Kimberley or the Kimberley as a whole; this is specified in the 'location' column. Details on the sources of all data provided in Table 1 are provided in Appendix B to facilitate future reference.

In section 2.3 following Table 1, a summary of research evidence relevant to each key line-item in the table is provided to explain the importance of each data item for early childhood health, development and learning.

DERBY COMMUNITY DATA SNAPSHOT

Key:
D Data available for Derby community (including Derby township, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park)
W Data available only for Derby-West Kimberley SA2
K Data available only for Kimberley SA3



CHILDREN

249 Number of children aged 0-4
Source: ABS (2021)

38.3% of children 0-4 are in a sole parent family
Source: ABS (2021)

11.5% of children 0-4 in Derby-West Kimberley SA2 don't speak English well or not at all
Source: CDA (2014)

324 Families with (any) children
Source: ABS (2021)

150 Estimated births per year to residents of Derby-West Kimberley
Source: ABS (2020)

Family make-up

- 33.7%** couple with children
- 22.6%** one parent
- 41.0%** couple no children
- 4.0%** other families

EDUCATION

27% of students at Derby District High School (Yr 1-10) attend school more than 90% of the time
Source: My Schools website (2019)

24.3% of children are on track on all five domains Australian Early Development Census
Source: AEDC (2021)

DIVERSITY

42.9% of residents are Aboriginal
Source: ABS (2021) Adjusted

58.4% of residents speak only English at home

4.5% of residents speak an Australian Indigenous language at home
Source: ABS (2021)

COMMUNITY

61.8% have a non-school qualification
Source: ABS (2021)

11.2% Bachelor Degree or higher
22.7% Certificate level (I to IV)
Source: ABS (2021)

734 Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage Derby-West Kimberley SA2 = which is in the lowest decile
Source: ABS (2021)

CHILD HEALTH

14.2% of babies had low birth weight (<2500g)
Source: CDA (2018)

11.3% of babies born pre-term (<37 weeks)
Source: CDA (2018)

90.6% of Kimberley SA3 children are fully immunised at 2 years old
Source: CDA (2018)

Vaccination rates

- Ear and Hearing
- Respiratory Disease
- Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Source: CDA 2018

In Kimberley SA3 children 0-4 have more hospitalisations than the WA average for:

MATERNAL HEALTH

Births to women aged 15-19 are 4.6 times higher (11.9%) than the WA average (2.6%)
Source: CDA (2018)

34.6% of women smoked during pregnancy, compared to 7.9% in WA
Source: CDA (2018) Kimberley SA3

HOUSING

15.8% live in over-crowded conditions compared to **2.4%** in WA
Source: CDA (2014)

HOSPITALISATION

3.6 per 100 persons aged 0-4 (compared with 1.9 for WA) hearing related hospitalisations for 0-4 year olds
Source: CDA (2018)

ECONOMY

69.7% work full-time
17.3% work part-time
5.1% are unemployed
6.9% are away
Source: ABS (2021)

19.3% less than \$1,000
25.5% more than \$3,000 weekly income for family households
Source: ABS (2021)



Table 1. Quantitative data for the Derby community including comparisons with the Kimberley and Western Australian averages

Item	Location	Location Value	Kimberley Average	WA Average	Comments
Children					
% children 0-4 in sole parent family	Derby	38.3%	25.5%	12.8%	See note 1
% children 0-4 who don't speak English well or not at all (2016)	Derby-West Kimberley	11.5%	7.0%	9.0%	See note 2
Family make-up					See note 3
<i>Couple family with children</i>	Derby	33.7%	40.4%	44.6%	
<i>Couple family no children</i>	Derby	41.0%	32.5%	46.5%	
<i>One parent family</i>	Derby	22.6%	24.1%	15.1%	
<i>Other family</i>	Derby	4.0%	3.0%	1.6%	
Child Health					
% babies with low birth weight	Derby-West Kimberley	14.2%	8.9%	6.5%	See note 4
% babies born pre-term	Derby-West Kimberley	11.3%	9.1%	8.6%	See note 5
% fully immunised at 2 years old	Kimberley	90.6%		91.4%	
0-4 yr old hospitalisation rates (per 100 children)		<i>Hospitalisation rates are the number of hospitalisations per 100 children aged 0-4 years in the community</i>			See note 6
<i>Ear and hearing</i>	Kimberley	NA	3.6	1.9	
<i>Respiratory disease</i>	Kimberley	NA	1.2	0.8	
<i>Vaccine preventable diseases</i>	Kimberley	NA	0.8	0.2	
<i>Injury</i>	Kimberley	NA	3.1	2.3	
Maternal Health					
% births to women aged 15-19	Derby-West Kimberley	11.9%	8.8%	2.6%	See note 7
% women who smoked at any time during pregnancy	Kimberley	34.6%		7.9%	See note 8
Children's Education					
Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) (2021)					See note 9
<i>% children on track on all five domains</i>	Derby-West Kimberley	24.3%	38.3%	57.5%	
<i>% children vulnerable on one or more domains</i>	Derby	51.1%	40.9%	20.3%	
<i>% children vulnerable on two or more domains</i>	Derby	25.5%	24.3%	10.2%	
% students who attend school more than 90% of time (Yr 1-10)					See note 10
<i>Derby District High School</i>	Derby	27%	NA	NA	
<i>Holy Rosary School</i>	Derby	45%	NA	NA	
Year 3 NAPLAN results, 2021					See note 11
<i>% achieving Reading benchmark</i>	Derby DHS	79%	NA	96.0%	
<i>% achieving Numeracy benchmark</i>	Derby DHS	65%	NA	95.3%	
% homes with internet access (2016)	Derby	70.7%	70.0%	85.1%	See note 12
Language					
% people who speak only English at home	Derby	58.4%	63.4%	75.3%	See note 2

Item	Location	Location Value	Kimberley Average	WA Average	Comments
% people who speak an Australian Indigenous language	Derby	4.5%	14.2%	0.4%	
Family functioning					
Income					See note 13
Time					
Human capital					
Psychological capital					
Social capital					
Suicide rates 2013-2017 ⁴				<i>Australian Average</i>	See note 14
<i>Indigenous rate</i>	Kimberley	5.18	NA	2.49	<i>Suicide and self harm figures are reported as rates per 10,000 persons</i>
<i>Non-Indigenous rate</i>	Kimberley	2.16	NA	1.20	
Emergency Department presentation rates associated with self harm 2017-2018 ⁴				<i>WA Average</i>	
<i>Indigenous rate</i>	Kimberley	386	NA	259	
<i>Non-Indigenous rate</i>	Kimberley	92	NA	69	
Self harm incidents attended by Police 2017-2018 ⁴	Derby-West Kimberley	320	NA	N/A	
Community					
Highest level of school completed		<i>Below figures don't add up to 100% due to not stated and rounding</i>			See note 15
% < Yr 10	Derby	10.9%	9.9%	6.7%	<i>Figures don't add to 100% due to 'not-stated' and rounding</i>
% Yr 10	Derby	20.6%	20.8%	19.2%	
% Yr 11	Derby	10.3%	11.3%	8.8%	
% Yr 12	Derby	31.9%	40.9%	58.0%	
Post-school qualifications					
% <i>Certificate/Diploma</i>	Derby	22.7%	25.0%	30.5%	
% <i>Bachelors degree or higher</i>	Derby	11.2%	15.8%	23.8%	
% <i>With a non-school qualification</i>	Derby	61.8%	59.9%	63.5%	
Socio-economic index					See note 16
<i>SEIFA IRSD Score</i>	Derby-West Kimberley	734	NA	NA	
<i>Percentile (within WA)</i>	Derby-West Kimberley	2	NA	NA	
<i>Rank (within WA)</i>	Derby-West Kimberley	4	NA	NA	

⁴ University of Western Australia Graduate School of Education and Rural Clinical School Western Australia (2020). A profile of suicide and self-harm in the Kimberley. Accessed 12 January 2022 via: <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020-08/apo-nid307753.pdf>

Item	Location	Location Value	Kimberley Average	WA Average	Comments
Economy					
Workforce Participation					
% work Full Time	Derby	69.7%	64.0%	57.1%	See note 0
% work Part Time	Derby	17.3%	22.3%	32.0%	
% unemployed	Derby	5.1%	6.1%	5.1%	
% temporarily away from work	Derby	6.9%	7.6%	5.8%	
<i>Below figures don't add up to 100% due to not stated and rounding</i>					
Parental employment					
% children 0-4 with at least one parent employed	Derby	42.1%	57.5%	82.0%	
% children 0-4 with no parent employed	Derby	57.9%	35.5%	10.2%	
Income					
% family households with income less than \$500 per week	Derby	5.0%	7.8%	3.3%	
% family households with income \$500 to less than \$1,000 per week	Derby	14.4%	14.8%	12.9%	
% family households with income \$3,000 or more per week	Derby	25.5%	26.0%	30.1%	

2.3 Notes on research evidence about quantitative data in Table 1

1. Sole parent families

In the Derby community, more than a third (i.e.: 38.3 per cent) of children in the 0-4 years age range live in a sole-parent family. This is three times the Western Australian average. Sole parents with young children often struggle because they face a ‘perfect storm’ of compounding adversity: they are on a low income, they have very little spare time to focus on themselves or their children, they are under constant pressure and stress (no money, no time and lots of responsibility), they may have few resources to draw on (i.e.: no partner to help, limited life experience and educational opportunities which limit employment and other opportunities) and are often socially isolated⁵. Further, the majority of sole parents in Derby are women. There is evidence that women who are single parents are at greater risk of poverty than other groups. Contributing factors include inequity of wage levels; casual, part time or insecure employment; high costs of child care and education; and lack of access to affordable housing. On the other hand, the strong family bonds that exist in Aboriginal communities may mitigate some of the challenges faced by sole parents so members of the Derby community are best placed to say whether a high proportion of sole parents in their community is an issue. Regardless, support for sole-parent families has to be multi-faceted, simultaneously working towards reducing any sense of social isolation they may experience while also addressing their material needs (food, clothing, other cost items), providing opportunities for them to ‘give back’ and feel worthwhile (reciprocity) and providing clear and accessible information that builds their sense of empowerment and confidence⁶. It also needs to respond to the particular circumstances of female sole parents.

⁵ Zubrick, S., Williams, A.A., Silburn, S. and Vampani, G., 2000. Indicators of Social and Family Functioning, Department of Family and Community Services, Commonwealth of Australia

⁶ Zubrick, S., 2018. *Circumstances for healthy children and empowered communities*, Early Years Initiative Workshop for the Department of Communities, Port Hedland, 28 November 2018

2. English language skills

According to data in the Child Development Atlas, the percentage of children aged 0-4 years who do not speak English well or at all in the Derby-West Kimberley SA2 is comparable to the rest of the State (11.5 per cent for Derby-West Kimberley compared with WA average of 9 per cent). However this is likely to be an under-estimation. The student enrolment profiles for Derby District High School and Holy Rosary School show that 82 per cent and 23 per cent of their students respectively have a language background other than English. Further, young Aboriginal children in the Kimberley who are identified in ABS data as 'English speakers' are likely to speak Aboriginal English which is a legitimate and distinctly separate dialect of English with its own vocabulary, syntax, and rules of usage⁷. Children whose home language is Aboriginal English benefit from explicit instruction in English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) – to learn Standard Australian English (SAE) which is the dialect of instruction in school⁸. Instruction in EALD includes how to code-switch between SAE and Aboriginal English. Success at school and in many formal settings requires a solid grasp of SAE whereas maintaining connection at home and a strong sense of self requires confidence and pride in Aboriginal English.

3. Family make-up

While there is little evidence that the make-up of a child's family has a direct bearing on their health, development and learning, the socio-economic factors related to living in certain types of family settings – such as sole-parent households or grandparent-care – can negatively impact children's outcomes⁹. Note that the categories of 'family make-up' are set by the ABS, and may not be meaningful for Aboriginal families. The categories also limit understanding the prevalence of different kinds of family arrangements, including grandparent or other forms of kinship care.

4. Low birthweight

Babies born with low birthweight are at greater risk of poor health, neurological or physical disability and even death. Health impacts associated with low birthweight can continue into adulthood and include increased risk of Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure as well as metabolic and cardiovascular diseases. Factors that contribute to low birthweight include extremes of maternal age, illness during pregnancy, low socioeconomic position, multiple pregnancy, maternal history of spontaneous abortion, harmful behaviours such as smoking or excessive alcohol consumption, poor nutrition during pregnancy and poor antenatal care. A number of these risk factors are modifiable and amenable to intervention¹⁰. Regarding birthweight, Target 2 of the revised *Closing the Gap in Partnership*¹¹ is "by 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91 per cent" however this statistic for the Derby-West Kimberley area is currently 85.8 per cent for all children in the community – data for only Aboriginal children are not publicly available.

5. Pre-term births

In addition to likely low birthweight (note 4, above), pre-term babies have increased risk of infections, asthma and feeding problems. While the proportion of pre-term births for Derby-West Kimberley is only marginally

⁷ Australian Curriculum and Standards Authority (ACARA) website at <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

⁸ Kaldor, Susan and Malcolm, Ian G. (1985) "Aboriginal children's English – Educational implications." In Michael Clyne (ed.) Australia, Meeting Place of Languages. Canberra: Department of Linguistics.

⁹ Moore T, Oberklaid F. Investing in early childhood education and care: The health and wellbeing case. Accessed 21 February 2022. Available from: https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ccch/Investing_ECEC_Wellbeing_Case.pdf

¹⁰ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018. Children's Headline Indicators website at <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/childrens-headline-indicators/contents/3-low-birthweight>

¹¹ Australian Government, 2020. Closing the Gap in Partnership website at <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/targets>

higher than the Western Australian average (i.e., 11.3 per cent compared with a State average of 8.6 per cent), this may be masked by high-risk pregnancies being transferred to Perth or Broome.

6. Early childhood hospitalisations

These data are for the entire Kimberley region and the rates of 0-4 year old hospitalisations are relatively small. However, as they are hospitalisation data only, they are unlikely to accurately indicate the prevalence of needs with respect to ear health, respiratory health and skin infections among very young children. Research shows that such ailments in young Aboriginal children tend to be normalised among some families in remote localities and/or families do not feel sufficiently empowered to raise concerns with doctors.¹² Health problems in any of these areas can have profound, long-lasting impacts on children's health development and learning. For example, poor ear health can lead to hearing loss which can impact children's language and literacy development and social skills. Complications of preventable Strep A throat and skin infections can lead to rheumatic heart disease¹³ which "*causes death and disability in children and young adults, and in Australia, affects almost exclusively Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*" (p. 1, Wyber, 2018).

7. Teen mothers

The incidence of teen mothers in the Derby-West Kimberley area is almost five times that of the Western Australian average. The strong family values and extended nature of Aboriginal families may reduce some challenges of becoming a mother during the teen years, however the likelihood of babies being born pre-term and/or with a low birthweight (see notes 4 and 5 above) increases significantly for teen mothers¹⁴ and teen mothers are more likely to smoke during pregnancy⁷.

8. Smoking during pregnancy

Pregnant women in the Kimberley are over four times more likely to smoke during pregnancy compared with the Western Australian average. Smoking in pregnancy is a modifiable risk factor for low birthweight, pre-term birth and placental complications because tobacco smoke reduces the flow of oxygen to the placenta and exposes the foetus to a number of toxins. Exposure to these toxins during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy are especially harmful and are associated with sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), childhood cancers, high blood pressure, asthma, skin infections, obesity and lowered cognitive development¹⁴. Research about smoking with Aboriginal women in the Pilbara¹⁵ found they smoke for social bonding and to deal with stress. For them, smoking was 'normal' and they do not often think about its harms. The women in the study said they wanted safe places to yarn about women's business, stronger connection to culture and country, meaningful work to do, facts about smoking and being healthy in pregnancy and stronger links with the local health services.

9. Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

The AEDC is conducted across Australia every three years when children are in their first year of full-time schooling. Pre-primary teachers complete the AEDC for each child in their class, contributing to a community-

¹² D'Sylva, P., Walker R., Chang, A. B., Lane, M., and Schultz, A, 2018. '*Chronic Wet Cough in Aboriginal Children: It's not just a cough*' presentation at the 2018 Child Health Symposium, Perth Children's Hospital and Telethon Kids Institute

¹³ Wyber R., 2018. '*Ending rheumatic heart disease in Australia: a new approach*' presentation at the 2018 Child Health Symposium, Perth Children's Hospital and Telethon Kids Institute

¹⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2015. Australia's mothers and babies 2013 —in brief. Perinatal statistics series no. 31. Cat. no. PER 72. Canberra: AIHW. See: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/mothers-babies/australias-mothers-babies-2013-in-brief/contents/table-of-contents>

¹⁵ Wyndow, P. J. and Walker, R., 2018. '*Tackling Indigenous Smoking in the Pilbara*', presentation at the 2018 Child Health Symposium, Perth Children's Hospital and Telethon Kids Institute

level measure of local children’s development on five domains: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school based); communication skills; and general knowledge. These areas of child development are important predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes¹⁶ and the revised *Closing the Gap in Partnership*¹¹ targets include one based on the AEDC: Target 5 is that “by 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the AEDC to 55 per cent”. Results from the 2021 AEDC show that one-third (24.3 per cent) of five years olds in the Derby-West Kimberley SA2 were on track on all five domains compared with 38.3 per cent for the whole Kimberley and 57.5 per cent for all of Western Australia. Meanwhile, five year olds in the Derby community are two and a half times as likely as their Western Australian peers to be developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain (i.e.: 51.1 per cent for Derby compared with a WA average of 20.3 per cent and 40.9 per cent for the Kimberley as a whole)¹⁶.

10. School attendance

There is a direct relationship between school attendance and school achievement – children who attend regularly do better at school¹⁷. The proportion of children in the Derby community in Years 1 – 10 who attend school at least 90 per cent of the time is 27 per cent and 45 per cent for Derby District High School and Holy Rosary School respectively¹⁸. These levels are low compared with a Western Australian average of 72.1 per cent. Research points to the importance of children being supported by schools and their families to establish the habit of regular attendance from Kindergarten onwards¹⁹ and for schools to have strategies in place to ensure they are interesting and engaging for students, culturally safe and provide prompt follow-up on all unexplained absences to emphasise the importance of regular attendance¹⁹. Close to 100 per cent of four year olds in the Derby community enrol for Kindergarten (including children from Pandanus Park who must take a lengthy school-bus ride each day they attend). This high rate of enrolment reflects the revised *Closing the Gap in Partnership*¹¹ Target 3 that “by 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Fulltime Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95 per cent” however enrolled children need to regularly attend to optimise the benefits of schooling. While the proportion of children enrolled for Kindergarten in the Derby community is high, the level of attendance during the formative, habit-forming first two years of school (Kindergarten and Pre-primary) is unknown but likely to be similar to the measure for Years 1-10.

11. National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

While the measure of a child’s success at school (and life beyond school) is far more complex than his or her score in NAPLAN tests, literacy and numeracy are essential foundational skills for success in life and there is strong evidence that children who do not achieve the National Minimum Standard (the benchmark) for Reading and Numeracy when they are in Year 3 are unlikely to catch-up with their age-group peers and will struggle throughout their education²⁰. NAPLAN results from Holy Rosary School in Derby are not publicly available,

¹⁶ Commonwealth of Australia and Department of Education, Western Australia, 2019. Early childhood development for children living in Western Australia by region: Australian Early Development Census 2018. Accessible via <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/vnnm73>

¹⁷ ACARA. (2019). Student attendance. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <http://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia-data-portal/student-attendance>

¹⁸ My School. (2019). Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

¹⁹ Hancock, K. J., Shepherd, C. C. J., Lawrence, D., & Zubrick, S. R. (2013). Student attendance and educational outcomes: Every day counts. Report for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra. <https://doi.org/10.13140/2.1.4956.6728>.

²⁰ de Carvalho, D. (2019). ‘ACARA: NAPLAN and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students’ in Education Matters Magazine, online version accessed 12 December 2021 via <https://www.educationmattersmag.com.au/acara-naplan-and-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-students/>

however the 2021 NAPLAN results at Derby District High School for Year 3 Reading and Numeracy show that 79 per cent and 65 per cent respectively of students met the National Minimum Standard score (compared with Western Australian averages of 96 per cent and 95.3 per cent).

12. Home internet access

Access to the internet at home is an increasingly important utility for educational opportunities (e.g.: many homework projects require internet research; training providers utilise remote delivery modes) as well as for daily life (e.g.: searching for employment, booking services, Google searches, banking, MyGov, etc.) and maintaining social connections via social media. The ability to use the internet is especially important in remote localities such as the Derby community where the easiest way to access information and some services is via 'virtual delivery' through the internet. Being able to do so from the privacy and convenience of your own home is highly desirable. The proportion of households in the Derby community connected to the internet (via a computer, mobile phone or other device) when the 2016 Census was conducted was only 70.4 per cent compared with a Western Australian average of 85.1 per cent, however home internet access in the Derby community may have increased since then. Data on internet access were not collected in the 2021 Census.

13. Family functioning

While data are available about child development, health and education outcomes, limited amounts of robust data are available on the social and family factors that influence positive or negative child outcomes. To help address this gap, a collaborative national project⁷ developed an evidence-based framework for tracking social and family factors that jointly influence children's outcomes. The 'social and family functioning' framework includes five inter-related elements: family income; family time (i.e.: time caregivers have for themselves or their children); human capital (i.e.: caregiver's knowledge, experience and skills about healthy choices and how the world works); psychological capital (i.e.: life satisfaction, confidence, worries, self-efficacy and conflict); and social capital (i.e.: sense of connectedness, civic engagement, safety and community cohesion). Unfortunately, quantitative data on these five social factors are not readily available at this time, so data items such as 'sole-parent families' are often used as a proxy (see note 1 in this section). Also, there is limited research on the extent to which a strong (or weak) connection to culture and country interacts with these social and family factors, however research into Yawuru constructions of well-being found that they are likely to be a protective factor for some Aboriginal families. To help address these gaps in the quantitative data available for the Derby community, the Evaluation of the EYP will address these factors via the parent-caregiver survey that will be conducted in each of 2022, 2024 and 2027 to track changes over time. This work, however, will need to be sensitively shaped and informed by local community members to include aspects of family functioning that are important to Aboriginal families and take account of "*Aboriginal identity and spirituality and build on the strengths of Aboriginal family and community life*" (page 3, McMahon, Reck, and Walker, 2004)²¹.

"Current information systems do not collect adequate prevalence and risk factor data at the population level to inform government decision-making in tackling these societal problems. The lack of relevant indicators of social and family functioning as key determinants of these outcomes is a serious impediment to the capacity of departments to produce the relevant information to guide government policy and the development of preventive strategies."

(page ix, Zubrick, et al, 2000)

²¹ McMahon A. P., Reck L. L., & Walker, M. (2004). A fork in the road: Redefining and counting the well-being of Indigenous children in foster care. Mackay, Qld: Mackay Centre for Research on AFRC Briefing 7 11Community and Children's Services. Retrieved 23 October, 2021, from http://www.croccs.org.au/downloads/carers_symposium_papers/CindyReckPaper.pdf

14. Suicide and self-harm

A 2020 report⁴ commissioned by the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) found that over two intervals of five years (2008-2012 and 2013-2017), approximately 72 per cent of people who died by suicide in the Kimberley were Aboriginal people. This places the suicide rate among Aboriginal people in the Kimberley at twice the rate of suicides among Indigenous Australians overall. Further, the total rate of suicide in the Kimberley is three times higher than the rest of Australia. The report also found that in 18 months from July 2017 to December 2018, the number of presentations to hospital Emergency Departments associated with self-harm in the Kimberley was three times the rate for Western Australia. A majority of presentations (81 per cent) were Aboriginal people; more frequently women and young people. These statistics reflect Police data for 2014-2018 where 3,602 incidents of self-harm were recorded; 92 per cent involving Aboriginal people with (again) higher incidence among women and young people. These records indicate that alcohol and/or drugs was associated with 65 per cent of incidents.

An important observation from the 2019 *Coronial Inquiry into Deaths of Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region*²² relates to the enduring impact of intergenerational trauma for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley: *“For non-Indigenous people who died by suicide, 80 per cent of those had a psychiatric diagnosis of depression. This is not the case with Indigenous people – there is actually a different nature to Aboriginal suicide. It seems to be much more impulsive. It is often triggered by an intimate relationship breakdown. We are talking about people who lack the capacity to self-soothe and calm, and that is also a by-product of trauma”*. This points to importance of the early years when positive, consistent routines and reliable attachment with caregivers lays the foundation for executive function skills and the capacity to regulate emotions ... and to self-calm or seek assistance when necessary. Research evidence indicates that ‘cultural continuity’ may also be an important protective factor: *“healing initiatives aimed at strengthening young people’s positive identification with culture and enabling their social and economic participation in community life ... has been found to be a key recovery feature of communities where high rates of suicide and other self-destructive behaviours have been reduced”*.²³

15. Levels of education in the community

The proportion of Derby community members who completed Year 12 (or equivalent) is lower than for the Western Australian average. Conversely, the proportion who only completed Year 10 or lower is higher than the Western Australian average. The proportion of Derby community members who have a non-school qualification is only slightly lower than the Western Australian average. In the 2021 Census, a large proportion of Derby community members did not provide sufficient detail to determine the level of their non-school qualifications, although based on 2016 Census data their qualifications were less likely to be university level qualifications and more likely to be technical and further education (TAFE) or vocational qualifications. These data should be considered in light of landmark longitudinal research which found that the primary caregiver’s (usually the mother’s) level of education is a strong predictor of that child’s lifetime success²⁴. However, the

²² Coroner of Western Australia (2019). Inquest into the 13 Deaths of Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region. Retrieved 15 October 2021 from

https://www.coronerscourt.wa.gov.au/l/inquest_into_the_13_deaths_of_children_and_young_persons_in_the_kimberley_region.aspx

²³ Silburn S., Robinson G., Leckning B., Henry D., Cox A. and Kickett, D (2014). Preventing Suicide Among Aboriginal Australians, Chapter 9 in Preventing suicide among Aboriginal Australians. Retrieved 15 January 2022 from

<https://www.telethonkids.org.au/globalassets/media/documents/aboriginal-health/working-together-second-edition/wt-part-2-chapt-9-final.pdf>

²⁴ Sylva, K., Melhuish, E., Sammons, P., Siraj-Blatchford, I. & Taggart, B. (2004). The Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) Project: Findings from pre-school to end of key stage 1. Nottingham, United Kingdom: Department for Education and Skills. Accessible via

<https://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3155&context=sspapers>

same research found two other important things. Firstly, that participating in high quality preschool (through programs such as KindiLink, Bunanil Play Group, early learning centres and Kindergarten) before children start full-time Pre-primary is particularly beneficial for disadvantaged children, especially in groups of children with a blend of different social backgrounds. In the Derby community, children from different cultural and linguistic are all likely to benefit from playing, talking and learning together in a setting where Standard Australian English, Aboriginal English and Aboriginal languages all have equal status⁸. Secondly, the study found that the child's home learning environment is extremely important: *"For all children, the quality of the home learning environment is more important for intellectual and social development than parental occupation, education or income. What parents do is more important than who parents are"* (p. 1, Sylva et al, 2004).

Creating a rich home learning environment does not mean turning home into some type of school; rather, it means making home a fun, calm, secure and cognitively stimulating place, shared with people the child trusts and feels a strong attachment to. Key features include predictable routines, frequent sustained 'serve and return'²⁵ conversations with children (from birth, even when the child can only 'babble'), engaging the child in daily household activities (e.g.: cooking, cleaning, fishing, shopping, etc.), consistent and calm responses to behaviour, playing and reading with the child daily, stimulating out-of-home experiences with friends, family and other children (e.g.: in parks, the bush, a library or at a river) and having a regular bedtime²⁶. It follows the impact of lower-than-average educational levels among families in the Derby community can be mitigated by programs that positively influence children's home learning environment, and which seek to build the confidence and capabilities of families. A solid home learning environment has enduring benefits for children throughout their schooling, not just in the early years²⁷. This is a key goal of programs such as KindiLink²⁸ and the Bubanil Play Group in Derby, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park which are already well established and attended by families of mixed cultural and social backgrounds.

16. Socio-economic index for areas – index of relative socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA IRSD)

The SEIFA-IRSD²⁹ is a statistic generated for every statistical area across Australia by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using selected data items from that national census that is conducted every five years. The SEIFA-IRSD summarises key information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within a specified geographical area. A low score indicates that cumulative and compounding features of economic and social disadvantage are prevalent within the community including many households with low-income and many people with low qualifications and low-skill occupations. The SEIFA-IRSD for Derby-West Kimberley is 734; this is the fourth lowest (bottom 2 per cent) Statistical Area 2 (SA2) locality in Western Australia. A low SEIFA-IRSD

²⁵ Harvard Center on the Developing Child, December (2009). Working Paper No. 1: Young children develop in an environment of relationships, accessed 7 February 2022 via <https://www.albertafamilywellness.org/resources/doc/working-paper-1-young-children-develop-in-an-environment-of-relationships>

²⁶ Yu, M. and Daraganova, G. (2014). "Children's early home learning environment and learning outcomes in the early years of school", Chapter 4, Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children Annual Statistical Report 2014. Accessed 7 February 2022 via <http://talkingtogether.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/childrens-early-home-learning-environment-and-learning-outcomes-in-the-early-years-of-school.pdf>

²⁷ Emerson, L., J., F., Fox, S., & Sanders, E. (2012). Parental engagement in learning and schooling: Lessons from research. A report by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) for the Family-School and Community Partnerships Bureau: Canberra. Retrieved from https://www.aracy.org.au/publications-resources/command/download_file/id/7/filename/Parental_engagement_in_learning_and_schooling_Lessons_from_research_BUREAU_ARACY_August_2012.pdf

²⁸ Edith Cowan University, 2019. Evaluation of the KindiLink Pilot Initiative in Western Australia, Volume 1: Overview and Key Findings. Accessible via <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/7lpmn3>

²⁹ 30. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021. Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia. ABS. Available from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release>.

is strongly associated with poor AEDC results for a community (see note 9), and points to the entrenched disadvantage faced by families and children in the community, however this index does not define a community and there are many communities who perform much better (or far worse) than their SIEFA-IRSD score might predict. The EYP exists to work alongside the Derby community to implement strategies which enable it to perform much better than might be predicted by its low SEIFA-IRSD.

Workforce participation and income

Data on workforce participation³⁰ for the Derby community compare favourably with the Western Australian average (i.e.: higher full-time employment, lower part-time employment and negligible differences for unemployment levels). Similarly, the latest 2021 ABS data on household incomes for the Derby community masks divisions, showing that the proportion of households with income below \$500 per week is slightly lower than the Kimberley average, and slightly higher than the State average. However these data are at odds with the SEIFA-IRSD score (see note 16 above) and likely mask a division in the community between ‘outsiders’ with government and service-sector jobs versus long-term residents who are under-employed and/or in low-paid jobs.

3. Context for this Community

This section of the report summarises key contextual features of the Derby community and the affect they may have on raising young children in this unique place. Content for this section has been drawn from numerous reports and plans that include the Derby community and have been written in the past decade. A full list of the material we have referred to is provided in Appendix A and B. This section is organised around five important aspects of community: physical, socio-economic, social, service and governance.

3.1 Physical aspects of community

The traditional custodians of the lands now known as the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley are the people of the Warrwa, Bardi, Jawi, Ngarinyin, Worrorra, Nyikina, Mangala, Unggumi, Bunuba, Walmajarri, Kija, Gooniyandi, Oogardang, Oomeday, Yow Jabi and Wangkatjunka Nations³¹.

The township of Derby lies on the western shore of a peninsula in King Sound, an inlet of the Indian Ocean, near the mouth of the Fitzroy River, on the traditional land of the Nyikina people³². Established in 1883, Derby was the first town to be settled by Europeans in the Kimberley Region, initially as a port town to service pastoral properties along the Fitzroy River. Until recent decades, Derby was the main Kimberley hub for State Government services and infrastructure. Along with Broome and Kununurra, Derby is one of only three towns in the Kimberley Region to have a population of over 2,000 people.

The Mowanjum Aboriginal Community is located 10 km south east of Derby at the Western end of the Gibb River Road. Between 300 and 500 people reside at Mowanjum Community depending on seasonal conditions in surrounding language group areas. Mowanjum includes people from three main language groups: Wunambal; Worrorra and Ngarinyin.³³ The name, 'Mowanjum' means 'settled at last' and reflects the fact that the Worrorra,

³⁰ Note: People participating in the Commonwealth’s Community Development Program (CDP) are not considered to be in an employer/employee relationship so were not recorded as ‘employed’ in the 2021 Census unless they also had a non-CDP job.

³¹ Shire of Derby-West Kimberley, from website accessed 13 December 2021 at <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/>

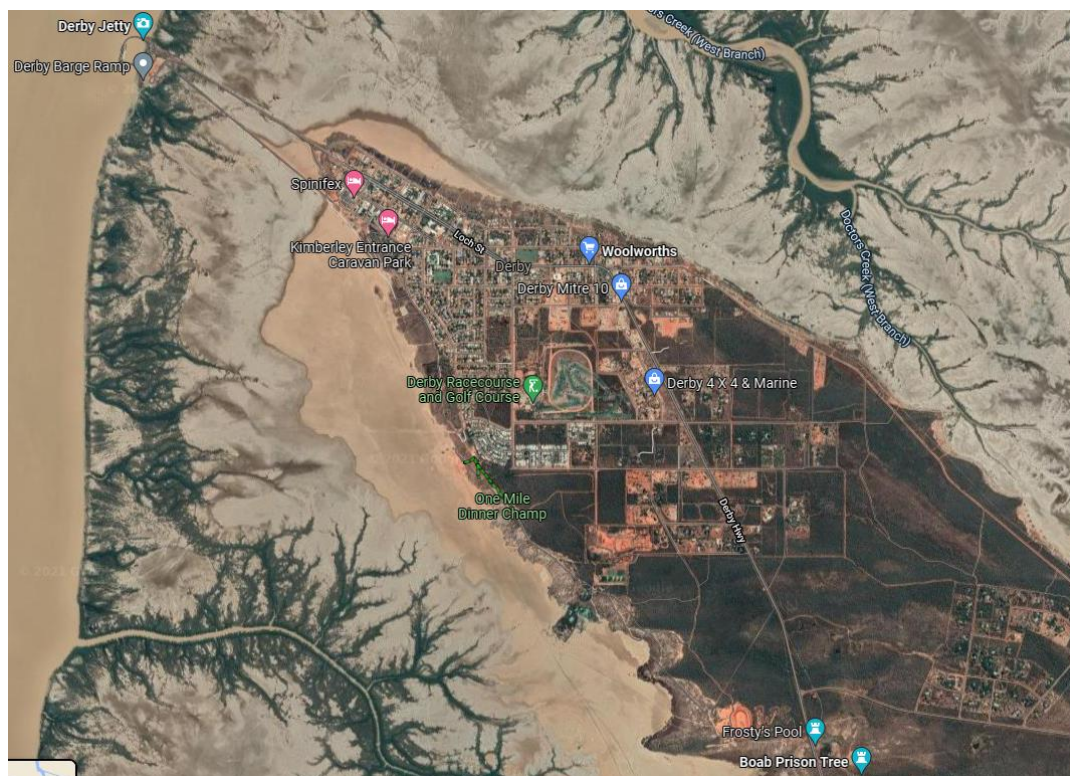
³² Map of Indigenous Australia. From website accessed 9 February 2022. <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>

³³ Mowanjum Aboriginal Art and Cultural Centre: History from website accessed 9 February 2022 at <https://www.mowanjumarts.com/about/history>

Wunambal and Ngarinyin peoples had been shifted around from place to place in response to changing government policies³⁴. The community was relocated to its current site in the 1970s to make way for the Derby airport. The community has been managed through its incorporated body, the Mowanjum Aboriginal Corporation, since 1972.³⁵

The Pandanus Park Aboriginal community (also known as Yurmulun) is located 60 kilometres south east of the Derby township on the Great Northern Highway, close to the mouth of the Mardoowarra (Fitzroy River). People living in Yurmulun identify as Nyikina. The community was formally established in 1984 and is now managed through its incorporated body, Yurmulun Aboriginal Corporation. The 2021 Census recorded 82 individuals living in Pandanus Park, of whom 12 were children aged 0-4 years. The community lies within the Nyikina Mangala Native Title Determination Area³⁶.

Figure 2. Terrain map of the Derby township



³⁴ Find and Connect: Mowanjum(1956-1972), from website accessed 9 February 2022 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00154b.htm>

³⁵ Mowanjum Layout Plan 1. Accessed on 9 February 2022 from website https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/getmedia/940014db-5709-472c-b5fc-b08d201a4d5f/LOP_Mowanjum_LP1_Amendment_10_Report

³⁶ Watson on behalf of the Nyikina Mangala People v State of Western Australia (No 6) [2014] FCA 545 (29 May 2014), Federal Court (Australia).

Figure 3. Terrain map of Mowanjum Aboriginal Community



Figure 4. Terrain Map of Pandanus Park Aboriginal Community



The physical environment in which these communities are located is characterised by the vastness of the region, pindan soils, acacia, eucalyptus, tropical grasses and boab trees, pastoral leases, coastal mudflats and a hot, semi-arid climate.

A key defining feature of the surrounding physical environment is that of dispersed communities located hundreds of kilometres from the next town (i.e.: Broome, approximately 220km away) and thousands of kilometres from the State's capital city (i.e.: Perth, approximately 2,200km away). Based on the ABS Accessibility Remoteness Index of

Australia (ARIA) codes³⁷, the Derby community is defined as ‘very remote’. The ARIA codes are calculated to reflect the ease or difficulty people face accessing services in terms of access along the road network, and they have a bearing on the cost of living because all goods incur a transport and storage cost. People living in very remote localities have less access to service centres, fewer service options and often have to travel a long way from home and family to access specialist services – or even to access everyday shopping and entertainment options.

Climate data have been maintained for Derby since 1883: it has a short, variable wet season from late December to March (featuring hot weather and erratic downpours and the possibility of cyclones) and a dry season from April to November and features with very little rain, warm daytime temperatures, and mild to cool nights. Reported extremes of temperature range from 47.8 C on 17 November 1968 to 5.0 C at night on 21 July 1965. This hot and often dusty climate has life-style and health implications, especially with respect to ‘walkability’ in the community for pregnant women and very young children. For example, skin health has been identified as a health priority by communities and researchers from Telethon Kids Institute are working with the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service on several separate studies to examine the skin and respiratory health implications of dust and heat including the SToP (See, Treat, Prevent) Trial to address skin sores and scabies. Climatic conditions also have an impact on the region’s economy with a number of Kimberley industries being highly seasonal with activity falling off during the very hot tropical summer season.

3.1.1 Natural Environment

The Kimberley is recognised for its substantial areas of wilderness and strong biodiversity which drives tourism and provides employment opportunities, however tourism tends to focus on Broome to the south and Kununurra to the north, both of which have substantial commercial airports. However, Derby and Mowanjum benefit from their location at the south-western terminus of the famous Gibb River Road which attracts numerous four-wheel drive camping enthusiasts throughout the tourist season from April to September each year.

3.1.2 Built Environment:

Key public infrastructure in the Derby township include:

- sea-port which is via Derby Jetty and was recently refurbished by the Derby-West Kimberley Shire to support a mineral sands export facility (which may or may not be fully utilised)
- Derby Airport which caters for light aircraft but not scheduled commercial flights
- Royal Australian Air Force Base Curtin, established in the 1950s to support land, air and sea operations to secure Australia’s north, now operates as a ‘bare base’ for occasional training exercises. In the previous decade, was the location of the Curtin Detention Centre which closed in 2012
- Derby Regional Prison
- Well-maintained bitumised roads within the Derby township and arterial routes to other major Kimberley centres via the bitumised Great Northern Highway (south to Broome, north-east to Fitzroy Crossing), the unsealed Gibb River Road to Kununurra/Wyndham and numerous graded unsealed roads to Aboriginal communities, tourist attractions and pastoral properties.

³⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia website at <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1270.0.55.005Main+Features1July%202016?OpenDocument>

- Derby Regional Hospital which is a small public hospital providing medical, surgical, paediatric, maternity and emergency services. When required patients are transferred to the larger hospitals in Broome and Kununurra or tertiary hospitals in Perth
- Derby District High School which caters for approximately 550 children from KindiLink to Year 12, including some specialist learning programs for Year 11 and 12 students via the School of Isolated and Distance Education based in Perth. This school partners with the Ngunga Women’s Group to jointly run KindiLink and Bubaniil Playgroup at an off-site preschool facility five mornings per week.
- Holy Rosary School, a Catholic primary school for approximately 90 students
- Derby Children’s Service, an approved childcare centre operated by One Tree Community Services Inc.
- Derby Public Library operated by the Shire of Derby West-Kimberley
- Several privately-operated art galleries
- Derby Police Station
- Australia Post, Derby Local Post Office
- Bank (ANZ) plus several automatic teller machines (ATMs)
- Derby Memorial Swimming Pool which includes substantial shade-sails for sun protection and landscaped surrounds.
- Nicholson Square, a large and centrally located set of grassed playing fields which include floodlights to enable use at night when temperatures in summer are milder
- Supermarket (Woolworths), pharmacy, butchers, hardware and electrical stores, take-away food stores, bakery and café and general retail. Clothing retail is limited, however Ngunga Women’s Group operates an op-shop.
- Churches – Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Derby Baptist Church and Baptist Union of WA Church
- Derby Racecourse and Golf Course

Key infrastructure in Mowanjum includes: office administration building, hall, shop, church, MSP shed, clinic area, football oval, basketball courts, aged care facility and well-established arts centre. A State funded Community Resource Centre (CRC), opened in 2010 and expanded in 2012, provides the people of Mowanjum with access to computers and internet access, and supports local people to develop skills that make the outside world more accessible. It provides a place for meetings and training with projection facilities and Westlink TV service. There is a dedicated Centrelink phone, printer and computer providing free access to Government and Banking websites.³⁸

Key public infrastructure in Pandanus Park includes: an office administration building, child care building, day care centre, health clinic, football oval, basketball courts and workshop. The main water supply for houses in Pandanus Park comes from two bores near the Martuwara (Fitzroy River). Tests in 2015 revealed concerns about the safety of drinking this water due to nitrate contamination, particularly for pregnant women and infants. Current advice from the Department of Health of Western Australia is that the water piped to Pandanus Park houses is safe to drink by all persons, other than infants less than three months old. The State Government provides packaged water for use by formula-fed infants who are less than three months old. The community also has access to water processed through a water filtration system (donated by a NSW based charitable organisation) which is housed at the community office and requires cartage³⁴.

³⁸ Connecting the Mowanjum community. Accessed on 9 February 2022 at <https://www.housing.wa.gov.au/news/Pages/Connecting-the-Mowanjum-community.aspx>

3.1.3 Future Planning

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley (which, along with the township of Derby includes two additional towns to the north-east: Camballin and Fitzroy Crossing) reports that it has undertaken significant public consultation in recent years to inform the development of its Strategic Community Plan, 2021 - 2031³⁹. Part of the vision for that plan is to “create a positive legacy for our children and our children’s children” (p. 10) and its key priorities include: community safety; infrastructure and activities to engage youth including sporting/recreational facilities; and the development of arts and cultural places, spaces, services and programs.

The Pandanus Park community developed a Strategic and Business Plan in 2012 which identified important community values and a vision for the future which includes the imperative to ‘create life choices for our children’ (p15). Priorities include: establishing businesses, increasing funding into the community, ensuring upkeep of facilities and equipment, programs to support young people, increased availability of housing, strengthened governance and on-site school for children in kindergarten, pre-primary and year 1. This document was provided as part of a submission made on behalf of the community to the 2016 Parliamentary Inquiry, *Learnings from the Message Stick: the report of the Inquiry into Aboriginal youth suicide in remote areas*.⁴⁰

3.2 Socio-economic aspects of community

As noted in Section 2 of this report (see note 16), the socio-economic index for areas index of relative socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA IRSD) score for Derby-West Kimberley is 726 which is the fifth lowest (bottom 3 per cent) Statistical Area in Western Australia. Meanwhile, data on workforce participation for the Derby community compare favourably with the Western Australian average (i.e.: higher full-time employment, lower part-time employment and negligible differences for unemployment), but more families have very low incomes and fewer have very high incomes. The employment data are at odds with the SEIFA-IRSD score and likely mask a division in the community between ‘outsiders’ who come to the Derby community with government and service-sector jobs versus long-term Derby residents who are under-employed and/or in low-paid jobs. Based on the family income levels, it appears that employment data may wash-out the division of very high and very low income levels that apply across the community.

3.2.1 Cost of Living

Based on the Regional Price Index 2019 (which compares the cost of a ‘basket’ of goods and services between Perth and regional areas), the cost of living in Derby is approximately 11 per cent higher than in Perth⁴¹.

³⁹ Shire of Derby-West Kimberley, 2021. Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031 accessible via <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/Profiles/sdwk/Assets/ClientData/Documents/StrategicPlan/index.html>

⁴⁰ Parliament of Western Australia (2016). Learnings from the message stick: The report of the Inquiry into Aboriginal youth suicide in remote areas. Accessed 13 January 2022 via [https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/\(Report+Lookup+by+Com+ID\)/B7C324463C7E020A4825806E00050947/\\$file/161114%20Aboriginal%20Youth%20Suicide%20Draft%20Report%20FINAL%20with%20electronic%20signature%2017112016.pdf](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/(Report+Lookup+by+Com+ID)/B7C324463C7E020A4825806E00050947/$file/161114%20Aboriginal%20Youth%20Suicide%20Draft%20Report%20FINAL%20with%20electronic%20signature%2017112016.pdf)

⁴¹ Kimberley Development Commission website accessed on 21 December 2021 via <https://kdc.wa.gov.au/economic-profile/cost-of-living/>

3.2.2 Housing

According to the latest available national census, there were 1,153 private dwellings in the Derby community in 2021, of which 846 were occupied. The proportion of unoccupied dwellings in the community (i.e.: 26.6 per cent) is more than twice the Western Australian average of 10.9 per cent.

The proportion of dwellings rented in the Derby community is 62.6 per cent which is significantly higher than the Western Australian average of 27.3 per cent. Corresponding to this, the proportion of occupied private dwellings which are owned or being purchased in Derby is 27.7 per cent, less than half the Western Australian average of 69.1 per cent. These data may indicate two things: a high degree of transiency in the community as people constantly come and go; and/or a lack of secure housing tenure.

The proportion of dwellings in the Derby community that do not have a registered vehicle (15.6 per cent) is around three times as high as the Western Australian average (4.9 per cent) which, in light of the Derby community's dispersed layout and climate, would be challenging – especially for families with very young children.

Real estate data from December 2021 indicate that the median weekly rent in Derby is \$295, and the median price of a house in Derby is \$136,500⁴².

Housing is identified as a key social determinant of health, with strong evidence suggesting that household crowding can contribute to the incidence of preventable diseases including rheumatic heart disease, skin infections, ear infections and glaucoma⁴³. It was not possible to identify from desktop analysis how prevalent household overcrowding is in the Derby community, however-anecdotal evidence suggests that any official data regarding overcrowding is likely to be under-estimated by as much as 35-45 per cent due to reluctance of tenants to report actual occupancy which result in breaching housing contracts or increased rental charges.

One likely strength in relation to housing however is that Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation (ENAC) manages a government Housing Management Contract for the Derby/Malarabah Region on behalf of the WA Department of Housing (DoH); their cultural understandings and knowledge of local family connections may expedite resolution of housing needs for individuals and families. As part of this contract, ENAC manages close to 100 houses in communities throughout the region. This includes establishing and maintaining tenancy agreements, rent collection, tenant's liability provisions/charges, property inspection and condition reports.

3.2.3 Industry and employment

Comparison of high level Derby *versus* Western Australian data for employment status are provided in Table 1 and are not markedly different, however these statistics are at odds with Derby's SEIFA-IRSD score (note 16) and likely mask an unhelpful division in the community between 'outsiders' who come to Derby with government and service-sector jobs *versus* long-term Derby residents who may be under-employed and/or in low-paid jobs. Closer examination of employment data bears this out. There are twice as many '*community and personal service workers*' in Derby compared with the Western Australian average, suggesting that servicing the social, health and support needs of marginalised community members has become a key industry for Derby.

The three most prominent areas of employment for the Derby community (compared with the Western Australian average in brackets) are: 22.9 per cent in health care and social assistance (compared with 13.6 per cent for WA); 16.3 per cent public administration and safety (compared with 5.9 per cent in WA); and 14.4 per cent in education

⁴² Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA) website at <https://reiwa.com.au>

⁴³ Barnes, R., Bowen, A.C., McVernon, J., Fathima, P.; Blyth, C.C., Tong, S., Walker, R., Carapetis, J., Wu, Y., Campbell, T., and Moore, H.C., 2018. '*Perinatal risk factors for skin infection hospitalisation in WA Aboriginal children*' presentation at the 2018 Child Health Symposium, Perth Children's Hospital and Telethon Kids Institute

and training (compared with 8.8 per cent in WA). The numbers (and percentages) of the workforce who were employed in various industries as of the 2021 National Census were⁴⁴:

- 237 (22.9%) – Health care and social assistance
- 169 (16.3%) – Public administration and safety
- 149 (14.4%) – Education and training
- 93 (9.0%) – Construction
- 57 (5.5%) – Transport postal and warehousing
- 53 (5.1%) – Retail and trade
- 53 (5.1%) – Food and accommodation

3.3 Social aspects of community

This community-level aspect relates to the extent of community harmony, connectedness, belonging and perceptions of personal and property safety. It includes social capital which refers to “*the quality and depth of relationships between people in a family or community*” (p. 1, Zubrick et al) and includes four complementary constructs: trust (that an individual, group, or organisation can be relied upon to act in a consistent, fair, rational and expected manner); civic involvement (in activities that directly or indirectly contribute to a community’s well-being); social engagement (interactions that foster connections among community members or organisations) and reciprocity (faith that an action or good deed will be returned in some form in the future)². Research evidence shows that social and family functioning associated with the social aspect is a strong predictor of outcomes for children⁴⁵.

In the context of the Derby community, frequent references were identified in the desktop literature search to *normalisation* of expectations and lifestyle habits which are not conducive to optimal child development. Little children having a wet cough is sometimes considered to be normal¹⁴. Over a third of women in the Kimberley smoked while pregnant (i.e.: 34.6 per cent in the Kimberley *versus* a Western Australian average of 7.9 per cent). In regional Western Australia around 12 per cent of recorded assaults occur in a family context (compared with under 5 per cent in Perth). Drinking alcohol during pregnancy contributes to high rates of foetal alcohol syndrome across the Kimberley (estimated at 12 per cent of births in the Fitzroy Valley⁴⁶). The rate of teen pregnancy in the Derby-West Kimberley area is more than four times the Western Australian average. These lifestyle factors are so widespread in the community that they are socially reinforced and very difficult for individuals to resist and change. However, research into effective health promotions shows that strategically designing change initiatives around the ‘EAST’ behavioural insights framework⁴⁷ (i.e.: make the change Easy, Attractive, Social and Timely) can prove effective. Importantly for Derby, the EAST framework can apply a strengths-based approach that leverages the strong cultural orientation evident in Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations in the community and, as per the messages in

⁴⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021. Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles, Australia. ABS. Available from: <https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/>

⁴⁵ Shonkoff, J. P., and Phillips, D. A. (Eds.). (2000). *From neurons to neighborhoods: The science of early childhood development*. National Academy Press.

⁴⁶ Fitzpatrick, J.P., Latimer, J., Ferreira, M.L., Carter, M, Oscar, J., Martiniuk, A.L., Watkins, R.E. and Elliott, E.J., 2015. ‘Prevalence and patterns of alcohol use in pregnancy in remote Western Australian communities: The Lililwan Project’, in Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, Vol 51 Issue 4, April 2015. Accessed 21 December 2021 via <https://www.fasdhub.org.au/research-and-publications/publications/2015/Prevalence-FAS-children-living-in-remote-Australia/>

⁴⁷ The Behavioural Insights Team, 2014. EAST: Four Simple Ways to Apply Behavioural Insights Report accessed 21 December 2021 via <https://www.bi.team/publications/east-four-simple-ways-to-apply-behavioural-insights/>

Figure 5 below, the strong voices heard by the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley in 2020 during preparation of its current Strategic Plan.

Figure 5. Selected quotes from community consultation undertaken in 2020 by the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley



Source: p. 26, Shire of Derby-West Kimberley Strategic Plan 2021-2031 at <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/Profiles/sdwk/Assets/ClientData/Documents/StrategicPlan/26/index.html>

3.3.1 Cultural diversity

A high proportion of the Derby community's residents are Aboriginal people. Census data from 2021 show that 39.6% per cent (44.2 per cent after applying the ABS's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undercount adjustment factor) of the people living in the Derby community identify as Aboriginal². According to local Shire figures, the true figure for the Shire is considerably higher at approximately 85 per cent.

The Aboriginal population includes people of the Warrwa, Bardi, Jawi, Ngarinyin, Worrorra, Nyikina, Mangala, Unggumi, Bunuba, Walmajarri, Kija, Gooniyandi, Oogardang, Oomeday, Yow Jabi and Wangkatjunka Nations.

The balance of Derby's population is made-up of people from numerous non-Aboriginal cultural groups, with the majority of New Zealand or British heritage. Surrounding Derby, there are many remote Aboriginal communities that connect with Derby as their local hub. Through these communities and Aboriginal people within Derby, the majority of Aboriginal language groups in the region remain strong⁴⁸.

⁴⁸ Emama Nguda website at <http://emamanguda.org.au/about-enac/>

3.3.2 Connectedness

Connectedness is an important aspect of social capital and relates to the networks of interpersonal relationships within a community. Good networks help a community to function smoothly, and lots of opportunities for individuals to gather and bond with others they feel a 'connection' with is beneficial for their well-being³⁰. The research literature identifies three important elements of connectedness: *bonding* (between individuals of 'like' cultural orientation); *bridging* (between individuals of diverse cultural orientations); and *linking* (social ties between community members and those in leadership/authority roles)⁴⁹.

Bonding between individuals within the same cultural, ethnic or religious groups can be strengthened through shared activities – doing and making things together such as art-work or team-play. One solid example of this in Derby is the establishment of the Ngunga Women's Group which, in its early days, focused on Ngunga Designs which was an engaging cultural art activity (including screen-printing designs onto fabric) for local Aboriginal women⁵⁰. Aboriginal cultural and arts centres provide membership, cultural connection and support for aboriginal people within the community and there is a commitment in the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley Strategic Plan 2021-2031⁵¹ to support such initiatives. Further, the Mowanjum Aboriginal Art and Cultural Centre⁵² offers a creative hub for local Aboriginal artists to share and celebrate their Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunambal culture. These are important mechanisms to establish strong bonds where people are available to help each other, trust each other and value the ideas each bring.

“For more than 60,000 years Kimberley Aboriginal women and girls have been connected through songlines, dreaming stories, kinship networks and trade routes across the country. That connectivity is truly a cultural asset ...”

p. 32, Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council 2021.

Bridging is the relationships between people across identities that can otherwise be divisive, such as cultural or socio-economic boundaries. Derby has many popular activities that help unite diverse community members including organised sports, fishing, arts, and festivals (e.g.: King Tide Day Celebrations and the Boab Festival), multi-cultural participation in the KindiLink and Bubani Playgroups, and shared sporting activities – all of which have been identified as strengths for this community. The annual Mowanjum Festival, celebrates and shares the vibrant, living culture of the Wunambal, Worrora and Ngarinyin peoples and attracts visitors from across Australia. It is another important example of how relationships are bridged and strengthened.

Young people in the Derby area are more likely than the Western Australian average to participate in organised sport (74 per cent in the Derby ATSI area compared with 63 per cent across Western Australia) and importantly, this flows into much better gender equity in sport for the Derby community compared to the Western Australian average (i.e.: 70 per cent of young women in the Derby community participate in sport and strenuous physical activity compared with only 56 per cent for Western Australia). This positive normalised behaviour for young women in

⁴⁹ Claridge, T. , 2018. 'Functions of social capital – bonding, bridging, linking' in Social Capital Research (2018). Accessed online 21 December 2021 via <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Functions-of-Social-Capital.pdf>

⁵⁰ Ngunga Women's Resource Centre website at <https://www.ngungawomens.org.au/>

⁵¹ Shire of Derby-West Kimberley, 2021. Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031. Accessed 10 December via <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/Profiles/sdwk/Assets/ClientData/Documents/StrategicPlan/index.html>

⁵² Mowanjum Aboriginal Art and Culture Centre website at <https://www.mowanjumarts.com/>

Derby has potential to build strong connections across groups within the community, and likely also contributes to good (future) maternal health for young women⁵³.

Linking refers to the social and inter-personal ties between community members and those with leadership, power or authority roles in the community. This is about how readily people in the Derby community choose to interact with people in positions of authority (e.g.: to use their resources, to volunteer or seek support/advice) and how well they have a sense of trust in those institutions. It is not about how institutions and services initiate contact with the people. A key indicator would be whether there are good relationships in Derby, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park between community members and leaders, law enforcement etc. and whether people choose to get involved with community leadership; political engagement, civic responsibility, volunteering, etc. Evidence shows that neighbourhood support and engagement is generally higher for families living in rural areas³ compared with urban localities. Prominent local organisations servicing Derby appear to be accepted and trusted by the community. In particular the Bubani Playgroup run by Ngunga Women's Group is well respected by providers and community. The key to its success has been the community development approach taken in its development and delivery, involving community consultation. A related example is that a senior member of Ngunga Women's Group (with strong connections among Aboriginal families in Derby, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park) is also an elected Councillor on the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley.

3.3.3 Social and cultural well-being

The numerous articles and reports reviewed for this report provided a range of positive and negative insights about the social and cultural context for the Derby community. Key excerpts are provided below.

- There is evidence of an unhelpful social division between the public housing areas of town (i.e.: 'back streets') and the rest of Derby. According to the report, life in the 'back streets' is rough, marred by poverty, addiction and family violence and Aboriginal families facing additional adversity are usually housed in the 'back streets' which compounds disadvantage⁵⁴.
- *"Cultural security is the affirmation of belonging through kinship systems, language groups, and connection to country. Cultural belonging is affirmed by elders and expressed by parents to ensure children are raised within a culture that cares and prioritises their physical, social, and emotional wellbeing and safety."* p. 15, Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council, 2021.
- *"Despite the very serious issues and the sadness that the town and its children face, there is still a very strong sense of culture and spirit in Derby. I also noticed an exceptional level of talent in the student community – so many of the students that I met during our tour are very dedicated to acting, sports, writing and music; I was delighted to get to know them and see what they were more passionate about, and hope that in the future their voices will be heard by many others in Western Australia."* - Constable Care Foundation, 2018 accessed 10 December 2021 via <https://www.cccsf.org.au/news/sharing-stories-and-expression-through-experience-in-derby/>
- *"It's to do with the fact that children were removed. Children were put into missions and didn't learn parenting styles, or how to love. And I'm talking from my own experience. From my own family. Because my grandparents were taken away and put into missions. My grandmother in particular was very tough on my mother. And they*

⁵³ Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, 2015. The social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people, Summary of findings from Volume Two of the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey, Malarabah (Derby) ATSI Region, accessed 19 December 2021 via https://www.telethonkids.org.au/globalassets/media/documents/aboriginal-health/waachs-regional-profiles/derby-vol_2.pdf

⁵⁴ Sainty, L., 2019. "This Woman Grew Up In The Worst Suicide Region In Australia. Now She's Working To End The Crisis", BuzzFeed article accessed 19 December 2021 via <https://www.buzzfeed.com/lanesainty/australia-aboriginal-youth-suicide-crisis-toyota-therapy>

didn't really learn how to cuddle and love and whatever. It's only through my generation that we've tried to break that and sort of parent a little bit differently." (Marietta Walkerbier³⁸).

- "In Australia, intergenerational trauma predominantly affects the children, grandchildren and future generations of the Stolen Generations. Their children may experience difficulties with attachment, disconnection from their extended families and culture and high levels of stress from family and community members who are dealing with the impacts of trauma. This can create developmental issues for children, who are particularly susceptible to distress at a young age. This creates a cycle of trauma, where the impact is passed from one generation to the next."⁵⁵ Derby and Mowanjum in particular have experienced very high levels of deaths in the community by suicide. "...Derby was at the epicentre of this ongoing catastrophe. In 2011 three young people died by suicide in as many weeks. The following year, the Aboriginal community of Mowanjum, 10km out of town, was rocked by the suicides of six people within six months."⁵⁶
- The age standardised suicide rate for the Kimberley for 2016-2020 was 34.0 per 100,000 persons, which was the highest rate in the country. In comparison, the 2020 age standardised suicide rates for Australia as a whole and for Western Australia were 12.1 and 14.3 per 100,000 persons respectively⁵⁷.
- The rate of intentional self-harm hospitalisations in the Kimberley in 2019-2020 was 22.4 per 10,000 persons for 0-24 year olds and 37.7 per 10,000 persons for 25-44 year olds. For Western Australia the rates for these age groups were respectively 12.7 and 14.5 per 10,000 persons.

3.3.4 Sense of community safety and perceived rates of crime

Reports of crime for Derby and other towns in the Kimberley are frequently reported in the media⁵⁸. Several papers reviewed for this report included reference to "young Indigenous children ... roaming the streets"⁵⁹ and engaging in petty crime. Western Australian Police statistics indicate a significant increase in personal and property crime from 2013 to 2016, however criminal offences in Derby have stabilised since 2016 and dropped in 2021 to below the number of offences recorded in 2014⁶⁰. A majority of crimes relate to assault and threatening behaviour (predominantly within family). It is likely that this violence is associated with mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues associated with intergenerational trauma, and reflects the insidious cycle of intergenerational trauma when witnessed by children⁶¹.

⁵⁵ Healing Foundation, 2021. "What is intergenerational trauma?" accessed 8 December 2021 at <https://healingfoundation.org.au/intergenerational-trauma/>

⁵⁶ This Woman Grew Up In The Worst Suicide Region In Australia. Now She's Working To End The Crisis. Posted 14 May 2019 <https://www.buzzfeed.com/lanesainty/australia-aboriginal-youth-suicide-crisis-toyota-therapy>. Accessed on 31 January 2022

⁵⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2021. Suicide and self-harm monitoring. Accessed 1 February 2022 at <https://www.aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring/data/data-downloads>

⁵⁸ Barry, H., 2021. "Kimberley grapples with escalating crime ahead of state election" article for ABC Kimberley News posted on Tue 16 Feb 2021 at 6:09am. Accessed 21 December 2021 via <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-16/state-election-crime-in-the-kimberley/13155260>

⁵⁹ KPMG, 2018. Derby Site Visit Report, DRAFT. Unpublished report prepared for the Department of Education and Training.

⁶⁰ Western Australian Police Force website, Crime Statistics page for Derby, accessed 21 December 2021 via <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Crime/CrimeStatistics#/>

⁶¹ Fogarty, W., Bulloch, H., McDonnell, S. & Davis, M. 2018, Deficit Discourse and Indigenous Health: How narrative framings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are reproduced in policy, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne. Accessed 21 December 2021 via <https://www.lowitja.org.au/content/Document/Lowitja-Publishing/deficit-discourse.pdf>

Crime statistics are likely to be incomplete because some crimes might not be reported – the statistics published by Western Australian Police specify the number of offences reported; not those that occurred. Interpreting trends in reported crimes (and particularly family violence offences) requires contextual information on local Policing – an apparent increase in offences may be due to Police strategies that have increased reporting levels, rather than an actual increase in offences.

Perceptions of crime within a community can influence families' willingness to allow their children to play outside or can convey a caregiver's general anxiety, fear and mis-trust to their children. This elevates anxiety and limits (healthy) risk taking and independence in children⁶².

3.4 Service aspects of community

The service aspect of community relates to the quality, scope, range, quantity, access (cost, location, frequency and cultural safety) and coordination of services that support families in the community to raise happy, healthy children. The range of relevant services include (but are not be limited to) maternal and child health support, playgroups (KindiLink and Bubaniil etc.), early learning services, libraries, Kindergarten, transport services that enable families to attend services, mental health services, accommodation services, etc.

This aspect of the Situational Analysis Report is the least well developed because it requires significant 'on the ground' input from members of the Derby community who are best placed to identify the full range of services and supports that should be included in this section of the report, and the extent to which they are valued and utilized by families (plus any barriers to usage). Initial desktop scoping undertaken by the EYP Project Team from the Department of Communities will be provided separately through the EYP Project Director. The intention is for that information to be reviewed in collaboration with the community.

An immediate impression is that there are a lot of part-time and 'outreach' services from Broome, but they are not coordinated into a coherent, family-centric service system. The 'mix' of services and providers in Derby changes quickly, and may have been impacted through 2019 and 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Service mapping by Save the Children Foundation for the Dampier Peninsular in 2015 observed that there were few (or no) dedicated services for young children and their families in the 0-3 years age range, and that many of the 'visiting' services "questioned the impact they were having within the region" (p. 21, Save the Children, 2015).

One shining light for the early childhood service domain in Derby is the positive collaborative relationship established between the KindiLink program provided by Derby District High School and the Bubaniil Playgroup provided by Ngunga Women's Group (including bus arrangements provided by Ngunga Women's Group) operating from the school's recently refurbished off-site preschool facility. Importantly, Bubaniil Playgroup also reaches into Pandanus Park and Mowanjum communities for 2 – 3 mornings per week.

Through the process of the Derby community reviewing the service mapping developed by the EYP Project Team, it will be valuable to consider the following factors which research evidence indicates are important determinants of how effective the available services are likely to be:

- Cultural security - it is desirable that the service staff and discipline experts include a high proportion of Aboriginal staff members to mediate the language and cultural dimensions of the service
- Quality – services must be thorough, delivered through well-maintained and equipped facilities and staff must be properly qualified and supported.

⁶² Goldfeld, S., Villanueva, K., Lee, J.L., Robinson, R., Moriarty, A., Peel, D., Tanton, R., Giles-Corti, B., Woolcock, G., Brinkman, S., Katz, I. (2017). Foundational Community Factors (FCFs) for Early Childhood Development: A report on the Kids in Communities Study. Accessed 7 June 2021 via <https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ccch/CCCH-KICS-Final-Report-April-2018.pdf>

- Continuity and collaboration –it is important that each family experiences the service system as a coherent, sensible and convenient journey as their child grows and their needs and abilities change over time. Wherever possible, this includes long-term staff appointments within services so families don't have to deal with a different person each time they use the service, and information-sharing across services wherever possible. Relationships are key, with long term trust/history building with staff.
- Family centric and non-judgemental – the most prevalent reason given by families for choosing to not follow-up services is that they feel they are being told off or being judged for the things they have and have not done. Whether these perceptions are real or not is irrelevant – people act on their perceptions.
- Easy to access - easy to get to, low/no cost, and open at convenient times, preferably a drop-in centre rather than reliant on making and keeping appointments.

In collaboration with the Derby community in early 2022, the following sub-sections for the early childhood (and related holistic) service system will be collected and added to this Situational Analysis Report before it can be finalised. It will incorporate community feedback on the provisional service mapping completed by the EYP Project Team provided at Appendix D.

3.5 Governance aspects of community

Aboriginal peoples have had their own systems of governance (made up of a system of country, culture, traditions, rules, values, processes and structures. While these traditional forms of governance have been disrupted and changed through the impact of colonisation, they continue to operate and adapt to the wider governance environment out of necessity, and also as means of achieving things that are important to their communities.⁶³

“It is only when effective governance is in place that communities and regions will have a solid foundation for making sound decisions about their overall goals and objectives, what kind of life they want to try to build, what assets they have or require, what things they want to retain, protect or change, the kind of development they want to promote or reject, and what actions they need to take to achieve those goals.”⁶⁴

An important part of Derby's governance context is that it was the first town established by Europeans in the Kimberley, and gained the status of being the main centre for government services and industry for the entire Kimberley region. That began to change in the 1970s as Broome and Kununurra gained prominence. Now, Broome and Kununurra are the main service, governance, tourism and industry hubs for the West and East Kimberley respectively. This changing status (from service hub and economic powerhouse for the Kimberley to 'third wheel' in the Kimberley) has impacted the town's economy, its degree of influence in policy and funding opportunities and the mix and regularity of services available in town.

3.5.1 Formal local governance

In Derby's early days, authority and governance for infrastructure and services rested with European leaders of industry and church missionaries, while authority among the Aboriginal community was held by elders. Derby's early history is long past but it is part of the backdrop for governance today. The make-up of decision-makers now

⁶³ Indigenous Governance Toolkit. Accessed on 29 January 2022 at <https://toolkit.aigi.com.au/toolkit/6-0-governance-rules-and-policies>

⁶⁴ Professor Mick Dodson and Diane Smith, 2003. 'Governance for sustainable development: Strategic issues and principles for Indigenous Australian communities', CAEPR Discussion Paper No. 250)

sitting on the local Shire Council (which spans Derby to Fitzroy Crossing) includes long-term residents of Derby including Aboriginal leaders. For the Aboriginal community, Aboriginal elders continue as figures of authority and wisdom, and this is evident in the Aboriginal Corporations which have jointly established the Derby Aboriginal Corporations Alliance.

Mowanjum and Pandanus Park also have their roots in colonialism and past policies of assimilation. The Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunambal people were removed from their northern homelands in the early 1900s, first to Kunmunya Presbyterian Mission, then to Wotjulum, near Yampi Sound. They were eventually settled on Nykina country near Derby, far from their sacred Wandjina caves.⁶⁵

Both communities have been self-managed through bodies incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*. Mowanjum Aboriginal Corporation was incorporated in 1981 and Yurmulun Aboriginal Corporation (formally Pandanus Park Aboriginal Corporation) was incorporated in 1987. These governing bodies are responsible for the on-ground care, safety and progress of their communities, and as incorporated bodies they also carry many duties and responsibilities. For example, the Mowanjum Aboriginal Corporation is responsible for a number of small businesses, manages the delivery of Municipal Services for the community and runs a general community store, which provides basic food and household goods. Several outstations are also under community control.

In addition to the level and extent of responsibilities, such bodies also face challenges such as lack of funding and resources, sporadic and time-limited grants, community expectations and member 'burn-out'.

Meanwhile, non-government organisations and State and Federal policy makers based in Perth or Canberra have a major bearing on the mix of services and initiatives that are enabled in Derby, however they are increasingly aware of the need to consult deeply with local people to co-design initiatives and optimise their impact. The Early Years Partnership and Connected Beginnings are two such examples.

3.5.2 Broader government policy environment

Two complementary policy themes that are prominent among State and Federal priorities which closely align with the EYP include **early childhood** (via national initiatives including the Australian Early Development Census, National Partnership on Early Childhood Education, National Quality Agenda for Education and Care Services, Children's Headline Indicators, , etc.) and **Indigenous advancement** (via initiatives including the recently revised *Closing the Gap in Partnership*, Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing initiative, the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2000 – 2004, Connected Beginnings Strategy, National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan 2000-2010, etc.).

State-specific reflections of these national initiatives include the Early Years Initiative (in collaboration with the Minderoo Foundation), the Our Priorities targets⁶⁶ (deferred indefinitely while the State Government focuses on its response to COVID-19), Child and Parent Centres, KindiLink, the Sustainable Health Review, the Kimberley Schools Project and the Resilient Families, Strong Communities policy for regional and remote Aboriginal communities, etc.. These policy directions recognise that harmonious and healthy family functioning arises from solid and holistic community strengths, culturally responsive procedures, two-way relationships and shared ownership.

State and Federal government funding arrangements are also in place to support the arts, cultural pursuits and language maintenance initiatives including the Mowanjum Aboriginal Art and Culture Centre (e.g.: paid resident

⁶⁵ Accessed 28 January 2022 at <http://www.mowanjumarts.com/about/history>

⁶⁶ State Government of Western Australia, 2021. Our Priorities website accessed 21 December 2021 via <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/our-priorities-sharing-prosperity>

artists from local Aboriginal community, annual Mowanjum cultural festival dedicated to sharing and celebrating Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunambal culture, etc.).

The unifying vision of the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley's Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031⁴⁸ is "A place where people want to live, invest, visit and return to" (p. 10, Shire of Derby and West Kimberley, 2021). Among the priorities identified in the plan are safety, community health (lifestyles, facilities, recreation and places to gather), culturally rich, sustainability and liveability. The published plan includes the following word-cloud (Figure 6) reflecting words that were most frequently heard through the community consultation process:

Figure 6. Word cloud from Shire of Derby-West Kimberley community consultation on its strategic plan



Source: p. 16, Shire of Derby-West Kimberley, 2021 at <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/Profiles/sdwk/Assets/ClientData/Documents/StrategicPlan/16/index.html>

A telling comment in the foreword of the Shire's strategic plan is that "much of the feedback we received is beyond our responsibility" (p. 7, Shire of Derby-West Kimberley, 2021) and that achieving change in areas beyond its remit entails advocacy and consultation with the State and Federal Governments, including (but not limited to) child care, education and training, health and well-being, safe spaces for young people, community safety and economic development.

3.5.3 Representation and community involvement in decision making

Community consultation to be undertaken early in 2022 as part of the EYP will confirm the extent to which transparent, accountable and responsive structures in Derby genuinely reflect community-level interests that everyone feels empowered to have a say. Meanwhile, the local shire undertook a comprehensive consultation process in preparation of its Strategic Plan, including the use of community champions to lead and inform engagement procedures. Further prominent Aboriginal Corporations have jointly established the Derby Aboriginal Corporations Alliance to unify, align and amplify their voices. These corporations are committed to managing their own affairs on their own land³⁴ and ensuring prominence is given to the knowledge and aspirations of elders in shaping community-level decisions for their people.

Another consideration for community decision making is the extent to which 'outsider' service providers personnel who live in Derby for fixed-term appointments associated with their jobs. It is uncertain whether these residents consider themselves to be part of the community (with a legitimate voice in decision making) versus just passing

through with no real authority to have a say in the future of community life. In this regard, it may be useful to reflect on the particular needs of such families: they are typically young professionals on a promotional pathway, often with young families, and a long way from their own family and friendship networks. While these 'outsider' families typically have a high level of conventional 'social capital' they face challenges associated with dislocation, transiency and unfamiliarity with their new surroundings.

3.5.4 Decision making and leadership

There are strong and prominent leaders in Derby at the helm of local Aboriginal organisations which are committed to the advancement of their community. Importantly, these leaders have organised themselves around a common agenda relating to early childhood and holistic, family-centric actions informed by elders and traditional cultural values. These organisations have established a local alliance (the Derby Aboriginal Corporations Alliance) and forged strong links with leaders at the helm of key service providers including the local public school, non-government organisations that are prominent in the community, and have initiated links with the Derby Aboriginal Health Service. Further, some of these leaders are also elected councillors on the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley. This strong, skilled, strategic and coordinated leadership is a key strength for the community and augers well for the future, however clarity of roles and boundaries, especially for non-government organisations and their gradual release of responsibility to local corporations is currently a work in progress. Also, it has not possible through this desktop analysis to ascertain the status of the West Kimberley Futures - Empowered Communities Ltd which was established in 2020.

Another strength in local leadership is the way it has been proactive about seeking current data and high quality research evidence through this situational analysis report to inform the identification of local priorities and actions.

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5. Appendices

Appendix A - Data Strengths and Limitations

Three main types of data are utilised in this report - administrative, Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data and Census data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

- Administrative data is collected by agencies as part of their operations when administering services. Examples include age, gender, marital status, and information needed to administer the specific service, such as the diagnostic code for a person admitted to a hospital. To protect the privacy of individuals, only limited administrative data are publicly available and only in summary form (i.e.: the data cannot be linked to individuals). A strength of administrative data is its completeness because it is collected as part of standard operating procedures so information is recorded for everyone who uses the relevant service.
- The AEDC is conducted across Australia every three years when children are in their first year of full-time schooling. Pre-primary teachers complete the AEDC for each child in their class, contributing to a community-level measure of local children's development on five domains: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school based); communication skills; and general knowledge. These areas of child development are important predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes⁶⁷ and the revised *Closing the Gap in Partnership*¹¹ targets include one based on the AEDC: Target 5 is that "by 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally each on track in all five domains of the AEDC to 55 per cent".
- The Census of Population and Housing (the Census) is a national survey undertaken every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Examples of Census data include the number of people in the household, household income, education level and employment status and the number and ages of children in the household. Census data are publicly available for geographically small areas of approximately 200 households, however if a natural geographical community has fewer than 200 households, arrangements are in place to protect the privacy of individuals in those small communities.

A key limitation of Census data is that there are five-year gaps between each collection and it takes a long time to prepare the data for public release. All data collected at the (most recent) 2021 Census have now been released and have therefore been provided in this report. However, data on internet access were not collected in the 2021 Census, so data from the 2016 Census have been reported. See Appendix B for details.

To protect the privacy of individuals, the geographic level at which Census data are publicly available varies depending on the type of information. Where data for the Derby community are not available for this report, data for the Derby-West Kimberley Statistical Area (SA2) -essentially the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley), or the Kimberley Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3). These boundaries are standard ABS boundaries, defined as part of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The maps provided in Figure 7 and Figure 8 demonstrate the boundaries of these areas.

Census Undercount

Another limitation of Census data is undercounting, particularly of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The ABS has estimated that the undercount of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for the 2021 Census is 17.4 per cent across Australia, suggesting that counts of Aboriginal people should be increased, on average, by 21.0 percent.

⁶⁷ Commonwealth of Australia and Department of Education, Western Australia, 2019. Early childhood development for children living in Western Australia by region: Australian Early Development Census 2018. Accessible via <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/vnnm73>

The Shire of Derby – West Kimberley has reported that approximately 85 per cent of the population within the Shire is Aboriginal, suggesting an even greater undercount at local level.

Potential reasons for undercounting include people who are not at home on Census night and who are not counted at the place they happen to be; households not receiving a Census form; large households not having enough room on the Census form to record all occupants and not requesting an additional form; and households deliberately leaving some people off the form. Households with too many people to fit onto a single Census form may be more likely to leave off the youngest children, as in many cases children are likely to be recorded from oldest to youngest. At a national level, children aged 0 – 4 years were the age group with the highest undercount rate.

Residents versus Visitors

Census data are available based on the location at which a person was counted on Census night (referred to by the ABS as the place of enumeration) or based on the location at which a person usually resides (referred to by the ABS as the place of usual residence). Census data included in this report was extracted from General Community Profile tables, which are based on the location at which a person usually resides. Therefore, visitors to the community on Census night are not included in the counts in this report.

Fly In/Fly Out Workers

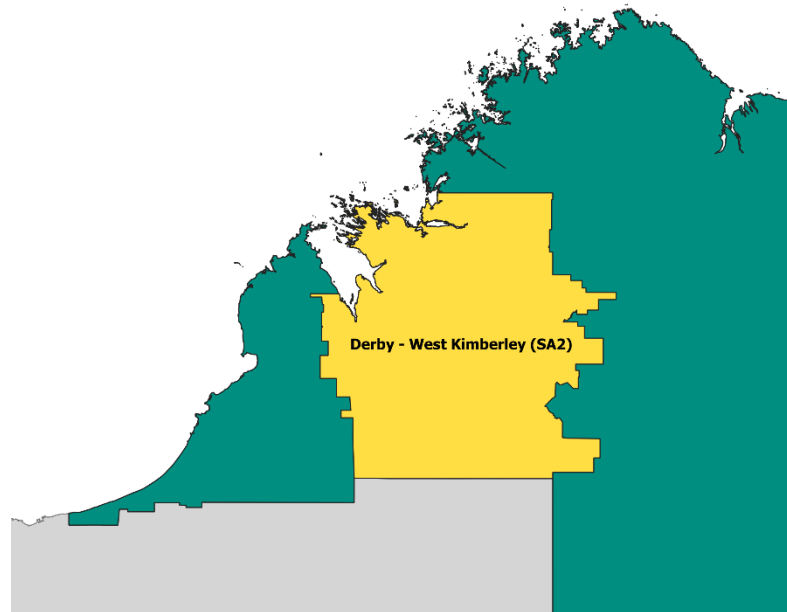
At the time of the 2021 Census there was a large cohort of Fly In/Fly Out (FIFO) workers in Derby. Such workers may be counted as residents or as visitors, depending on how they self-identified. Census instructions are that a person's place of usual residence is the place at which they spend at least six months of the year, but it is not clear how this instruction is interpreted, particularly for FIFO workers. For the Derby community, there were approximately 2,000 additional people based on the place of enumeration than based on the place of usual residence. Many of these visitors are likely to be FIFO workers, but it is not possible to determine how many other FIFO workers reported Derby as their place of residence.

Curtin RAAF Airbase/Immigration Reception and Processing Centre

The presence of detainees at the Curtin RAAF airbase/Immigration Reception and Processing Centre and staff from the Centre living in the Derby community was considered as potentially resulting in an over-estimate of the true community population. However, the Centre was closed in September 2014⁶⁸ and therefore would not have impacted 2021 Census data presented in this report.

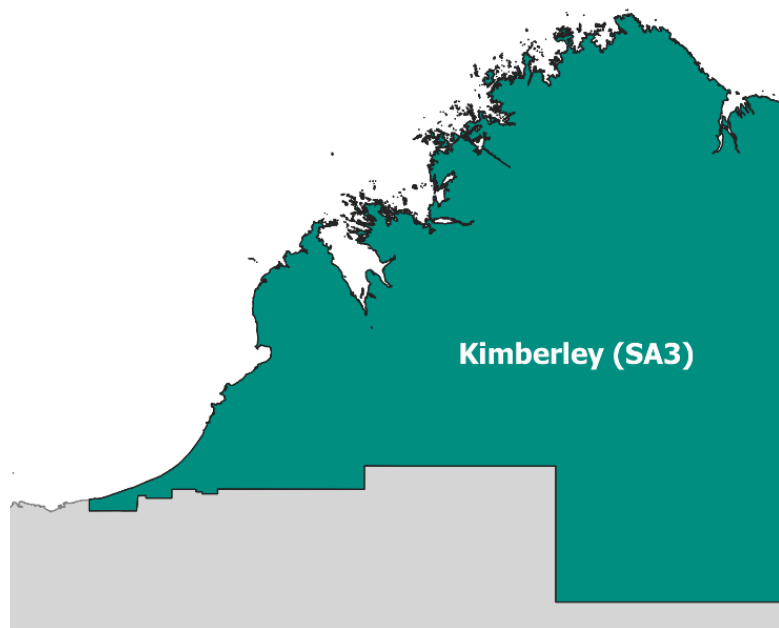
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Figure 7. Map of the Derby-West Kimberley Statistical Area Level 2



Note: The SA2 of Derby-West Kimberley is similar, but not identical, to the Local Government Area of the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley.

Figure 8. Map of the Kimberley Statistical Area Level 3



Data sovereignty

A further limitation of routinely collected health and socio-economic data is that it may not reflect Aboriginal world views, reducing the availability of data that is important to the lives and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. This means that the 'picture' that data presents may not tell the whole story of a community, or may be 'skewed'. For example, categories of 'family make-up' are set by the ABS, and may not be meaningful for Aboriginal families. The categories also limit understanding the prevalence of different kinds of family arrangements, including grandparent or other forms of kinship care.

Comparisons drawn with data about non-Indigenous groups are often intended to highlight inequity for Aboriginal people however they may also contribute to a 'deficit discourse' which "*represents people or groups which in terms of deficiency – absence, lack or failure*".⁶⁹ This discourse implies that responsibility for problems rests with the individuals or communities affected by them rather than addressing larger socio-economic and historical factors that contribute to those problems. In preparation of this report, Telethon Kids Institute has been keenly aware of its responsibility to provide a candid and honest account of what the available data says about the Derby community while also foregrounding strengths that are evident (though sometimes hidden) in the data. This is not intended to minimise the adversity and trauma that many Aboriginal people face. Rather, it is an effort to adopt a strengths-based⁷⁰ approach whereby the complex reasons for inequity are not eclipsed by negative portrayals of Aboriginality and that positive qualities of diversity, capability and strength are not overlooked.

One Broome-based example of a strengths-based approach is the 2015 Yawuru Community Wellbeing Survey developed by Yawuru people (in collaboration with a number of academic partners). It focusses on strong family, strong community, connection to culture, country and identity, self-determination, health, material and subjective well-being. This research reflects the strengths and capabilities of Yawuru people, informed by Yawuru culture and contextualised by the historical challenges faced by the Yawuru community.⁷¹

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- ⁶⁹ Fogarty W, Bulloch H, McDonnell S, Davis M. Deficit Discourse and Indigenous Health: How Narrative Framings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Are Reproduced in Policy. 2018:xii.
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Appendix B - Detailed Data Sources

Item	Data Currency	Source	Website
Children			
% children 0-4 in sole parent family	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
% children 0-4 who don't speak English well or not at all	2021	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/
Family make-up	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
Child Health			
% babies with low birth weight	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/
% babies born pre-term	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/
% fully immunised at 2 years old	June 2020	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/
0-4 yr old hospitalisation rates (per 100 children)	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/
Maternal Health			
% births to women aged 15-19	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/
% women who smoked at any time during pregnancy	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/
Children's Education			
Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) (2021)	2021	Australian Early Development Census	https://www.aedc.gov.au/data
% students who attend school more than 90% of time (Yr 1-10)	2019	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	https://www.myschool.edu.au/ https://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/home.do
Year 3 NAPLAN results, 2021	2021	WA Department of Education	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
% homes with internet access	2016	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
Language			
% people who speak only English at home	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
% people who speak an Australian Indigenous language	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
Family functioning			
Suicide rates 2013-2017	2013-2017	University of Western Australia Graduate School of Education and Rural Clinical School Western Australia (2020). A profile of suicide and self-harm in the Kimberley	https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020-08/apo-nid307753.pdf
Emergency Department presentation rates associated with self harm 2017-2018	2017-2018	University of Western Australia Graduate School of Education and Rural Clinical School Western Australia (2020). A profile of suicide and self-harm in the Kimberley	https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020-08/apo-nid307753.pdf
Self harm incidents attended by Police 2017-2018	2017-2018	University of Western Australia Graduate School of Education and Rural Clinical School Western Australia (2020). A profile of suicide and self-harm in the Kimberley	https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020-08/apo-nid307753.pdf

Item	Data Currency	Source	Website
Community			
Highest level of school completed	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
Post-school qualifications	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
Socio-economic index	2021	ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas	https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2033.0.55.001
Economy			
Workforce Participation	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
Parental employment	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/
Income	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/

Appendix C – Notable changes for Derby between the 2016 and 2021 Census

The following table contains line-items for which ABS Census data in 2021 differed markedly from the 2016 results. While tests of statistical significance have NOT been undertaken, differences on these line-items are fairly large and have been provided here for information. These differences cannot be considered as ‘trends’ unless similar changes are evident in data from three or more time-points.

Statistic	2016	2021
Number of children aged 0-4 years (adjusted using the ABS undercount index for Aboriginal communities)	299 (338)	220 (249)
Families with children	476	324
% of residents who are Aboriginal	49.0%	42.9%
% of residents who only speak English at home	72.6%	58.4%
% of residents who speak an Indigenous language at home	10.9%	4.5%
Family households with a weekly income below \$1,000 per week	25.5%	19.3%
Family households with a weekly income above \$2,000 per week	49.6%	55.7%
% of children aged 0-4 years with at least one parent employed	36.2%	57.9%
% of children aged 0-4 years with no parent employed	54.5%	42.1%

Appendix D - Kimberley (Derby) Service Mapping



Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
Child					
Child Development					
DDHS KindiLink & Bubani Playgroup	<i>Derby District High School</i>	KindiLink is a play-and-learn initiative for 3 year old Aboriginal children in the year before they start kindergarten. Children attend with a parent/carer for six hours a week. KindiLink offers high quality play and learn sessions for children and their parent/carer at the participating schools, at no costs to families. families are supported by a teacher and assistant to be actively involved in the activities with their children. where there is room in the program, younger members of the family may also attend with the three year old child.	3 years	State Government (Education)	Derby
HIPPY: The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters	<i>Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd</i>	HIPPY is a two year, home based early childhood learning and parenting program that empowers parents and carers as their child's first teacher. Year one of the HIPPY program starts the year before school and parents learn skills that prepare their children for school. The second year of HIPPY helps parents learn more about supporting their children's learning and development at school and at home. The program is a long-running successful international program. Parents do 10-15 minutes a day of educational activities with their children. A trained HIPPY tutor meets with them regularly to support and practice the program.	4-6 years	Federal Government (Department of Social Services)	Broome and Derby
Connected Beginnings	<i>Ngunga Women's Group</i>	Connected Beginnings prepares Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children for school. It aims to close the gap in school readiness and education outcomes between First Nations children and non-Indigenous children.	Pregnant people and children aged 0 to school age	Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Department of Health	Country wide
Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS)	<i>Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation</i>	The RSAS team delivers the following methods by ensuring children and young people have access to more opportunities through education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support families to assess the reasons their children may not be attending school, and provide short term support, or referrals to specialist support services, where needed. • Provide practical support such as transport to school, assistance with school lunches and uniforms where required. • Work with the local school to monitor attendance and follow up on student absences. • Enable communities to take ownership of school attendance activities, including through decision making and goal setting. • Share good news with families, celebrate student's successes and promote the positive benefits of school. 	Aboriginal families		Derby, Mowanjumb

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School holiday programs including Basketball/DISCO, movie nights, picnics, day of country, multisport day and community party days. 			
Child Care	<i>One Tree Children Services</i>	<p>Nursery room caters for infants from 0 to 30 months.</p> <p>Toddlers and kindy room caters for children from 30 months to five years.</p> <p>During the last school term of each year, we collaborate with the local school to offer a school readiness program. This is designed to help the children prepare for their transition to primary school in the following year.</p>	Children aged to 0 to 5 years	Parents and Federal Government.	Country Wide. Centre in Derby.
Child Health					
Universal Child Health Schedule	<i>WACHS / contracted service providers</i>	<p>The WA Child Health Service promotes the health and development of children by engaging with families and undertaking preventative health initiatives, health surveillance and screening, and health promotion activities.</p> <p>The five scheduled Universal contacts focus on eliciting and responding to parental concerns, the early identification of health and developmental concerns, supporting parenting and the promotion of child parent relationships. The Universal contacts involve identifying protective and risk factors, undertaking observations and assessments, surveillance and screening, providing anticipatory guidance, offering health information, and care planning that may include additional contacts and/or referral to relevant services and programs.</p> <p>The WACHS child health program is referred to as Healthy Country Kids</p>	all children from birth to school entry	State Government (WACHS)	State-wide
Enhanced Child Health Schedule (ECHS)	<i>WACHS / contracted service providers</i>	<p>The ECHS offers scheduled contacts with children and families, including the six Universal child health contacts and an additional ten contacts to provide extra support and monitoring. It supports families to raise healthy children with optimal development and wellbeing who are ready to commence school.</p>	children and families who are experiencing poor social determinants and who require additional support	State Government (WACHS)	all WACHS regions

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
Child Development Services	WACHS / contracted service providers	A range of free assessment, early intervention and treatment services are offered to children with developmental delay or difficulty that impact on function, participation and/or parent-child relationship.		State Government (WACHS)	all WACHS regions
Ear Health Screening for Aboriginal Children	WACHS / contracted service providers	Ear health and hearing screening (including otoscopy and tympanometry where required) is offered for all Aboriginal children from birth to school entry, as part of the universal child health contact at a minimum, with additional checks conducted for vulnerable children 0-5 years as identified.	Aboriginal children 0-5 years	State Government (WACHS)	all WACHS regions
School Health	Tartarl Kura Maya Bidyadanga Community Clinic	Clinical services provided by Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service	Aboriginal children		
Immunisations	Tartarl Kura Maya Bidyadanga Community Clinic	Clinical services provided by Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service	Aboriginal families		
Child and Maternal Health	Tartarl Kura Maya Bidyadanga Community Clinic	Clinical services provided by Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service	Aboriginal children and mothers		
Child Health	Derby Aboriginal Health Service (DAHS)	<p>The 0– 5 years Child health Registered Nurse and Enrolled Nurse at DAHS, along with a GP, work together to ensure that children in this age group are appropriately screened, monitored, and linked with Paediatric Specialist services when needed.</p> <p>Child Health appointments are also offered at various times on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.</p> <p>The child health workers have established relationships with other organisations in Derby, such as local child-care, to extend child health education and screening into the community setting. There is also a close working relationship with the Paediatricians to ensure children are seen following referrals by the GP. There is regular contact made with the school nurse to enable continuity between preschool and school years.</p> <p>The Child Health Registered Nurse and other DAHS staff (registered Nurses) have completed recognised immunisation training courses and are able to perform opportunistic immunisations at any time they are available</p>	Aboriginal children 0-5 years		Derby and the following communities: Jarlmadangah Burru Pandanus Park Kupungarri Imintji Ngallagunda Dodnum Kandiwal

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
Paediatric Nutritionist Boab Health Service	Allied Health delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Services by Boab Health.	Monthly visits to Derby	Aboriginal children		Derby
Regional Paediatrician / Paediatric Registrar WA Health Department	Allied Health delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Services by Department of Health (State Govt)	Monthly visits to Derby	Aboriginal children		Derby
Paediatric Developmental	Allied Health delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Services	Bi-monthly visits to Derby	Aboriginal children		Derby
Paediatric Cardiologist	Allied Health delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Services	Delivered twice a year	Aboriginal children		Derby
Health Care Assessments for Children in Care	WACHS / contracted services / Primary Care providers	Health assessments inform the health component of the child's care plan, comprise the physical, developmental and psychosocial domains of health and wellbeing, and are reviewed annually.	children in the care of the Dept of Communities		all WACHS regions
Family					
Maternal health					
Women's Health	Derby Aboriginal Health Service (DAHS)	DAHS programs offer Derby community members culturally appropriate health, education, health promotion and clinical services	Aboriginal women		Derby
Parental health (including substance use, mental and emotion health)					
Allied Health Care	Boab Health Services	Diabetes Services-Monthly	Aboriginal parents		Derby

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
Allied Health Care	<i>Boab Health Services</i>	Podiatry-Monthly	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Boab Health Services</i>	Dietetic Services-Monthly	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Boab Health Services</i>	Mental Health-every 2-3 weeks	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	Psychiatrist-every 6 weeks	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	Echo cardiologist-twice yearly	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Breast Screening WA (WA Dept of Health) delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	Mammogram Van, every 2 years	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Lions Eye Vision, delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	Optometrist, weekly visits 2-3 times per year.	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Dental Health Services, delivered at Dentist- Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	Weekly	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Dentist-Royal Flying Doctor Service, delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	Dental Clinic-2 weeks every quarter	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Allied Health Care	<i>Nephrologist, delivered at Derby</i>	Quarterly	Aboriginal parents		Derby

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
	<i>Aboriginal Health Service</i>				
Allied Health Care	<i>Ophthalmologist, delivered at Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	Quarterly	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Primary Health Care	<i>Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	DAHS programs offer Derby community members culturally appropriate health, education, health promotion and clinical services	Aboriginal parents		Derby
Derby Renal Health Centre	<i>Kimberley Renal Services is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services.</i>	Renal Support and dialysis services.	Universal		Derby
Social and Emotional Wellbeing Team	<i>Derby Aboriginal Health Service</i>	<p>The DAHS Social and Emotional Wellbeing Team provides services that help individuals develop and maintain positive thoughts, behaviours and relationships. This is achieved through a strengths based approach in a person centred environment.</p> <p>SEWB Programs Include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling • Social Work • Youth Support Programs • Perinatal Support and Advocacy • Men's and Boy's Support and Advocacy • Social and Emotional Health Education • Healthy Workforce Training • Community Development <p>SEWB Group Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anger Management • Deadly Thinking • Hey Dad • Shine Girls Group • Bodyshop Girls Clinical Service • Work–Strengths Program for Employers and Organisations 	Aboriginal Parents		Derby

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
Mental Health Support	<i>Kimberley Mental Health and Drugs Services, Kimberley Community Alcohol and Drug Services.</i>	<p>Kimberley Mental Health & Drug Service (KMHDS) provides specialist mental health services to the Kimberley for all age groups. The service aims to deliver a comprehensive range of high quality, community focused mental health services to residents of & visitors to the Kimberley.</p> <p>Kimberley Community Alcohol and Drug Service (KCADS) The KCADS team operates as a distinct team within KMHDS. KCADS provides clinical and prevention alcohol and drug services across the Kimberley.</p> <p>KCADS provides assessment, counselling and referral and support to people who are experiencing problems as a result of their own, or someone else's alcohol or drug use. Participation in KCADS services is voluntary.</p> <p>Locally based, multi-disciplinary teams are located in regional centres across the Kimberley (Kununurra, Halls Creek, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing & Broome). Outreach is provided by each of these teams to surrounding & remote areas.</p>	Universal	Provided by the WACHS and paid for by the Mental Health Commission.	Derby Office
Family financial well-being (including financial counselling, employment services and housing/homelessness)					
Food Relief Service	<i>Red Cross Derby</i>	Food Relief Service	Universal		Derby
Remote Jobs and Community Development Program	<i>Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation</i>	Community Development Program Provider for Derby, Looma and Gibb River region.	Aboriginal parents	Federal Government NIAA	Derby and remote communities in West Kimberley
Kimberley Money Management Services	<i>Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation</i>	The core aim of KMMS is to provide assistance to people in financial difficulty by helping them to address their financial problems, make informed choices and build longer-term capability to budget and manage their money. KMMS provides a range of education services including; budgeting, debt management, saving plans, family payment education, bill paying, purchasing assistance, internet & phone banking, information on loans and credit cards, lost superannuation, tax assistance, financial counselling, insurances and free access to phone and computers.	Aboriginal parents		Derby and remote communities in West Kimberley
Financial Counselling Services	<i>Derby Financial Counselling</i>		All Ages Universal	State Government (Communities)	Derby

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
	<i>Information and Support Service</i>				
Financial Counselling Services	<i>Ngunga Group Women's Aboriginal Corporation</i>	Derby Financial Counselling Information and Support Service - Financial counselling service delivery includes face-to-face, telephone and community education (via workshops) to assist Individuals and families to avert the risk of financial crisis or successfully recover from that crisis. There has been an increase in clients seeking early access to superannuation due to financial stress.	All Ages Universal	State Government (Communities)	West Kimberley
Thrive	<i>Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation, Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services, Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation</i>	Thrive is a support program for Aboriginal Housing and Public Housing tenants and provides a a holistic support approach to enhance people's lives by looking at the wider needs of the individual. Thrive has a strong focus on early intervention, supporting people to identify and tackle problems before they become too great. The program assists tenants to improve their life skills, increase their ability to manage their household independently and participate in their community. Thrive is delivered in partnership with non-government organisations.	All Ages Aboriginal families	State Government (Communities)	Kimberley Wide
Housing Support Workers - West Kimberley	<i>Centacare Kimberley Association Inc</i>	Service provides support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to secure and maintain stable accommodation and avoid homelessness.	All Ages Universal	State Government (Communities)	Broome and Derby only
Broome Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation	<i>Mercy Community Services Limited</i>	Service provides low cost accommodation and support to Aboriginal people traveling to service towns who would otherwise be sleeping rough or in overcrowded accommodation.	All Ages Aboriginal families	State Government (Communities)	Broome and Derby
Derby Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation Service	<i>Mercy Community Services Limited</i>	Service provides low cost accommodation and support to Aboriginal people traveling to service towns who would otherwise be sleeping rough or in overcrowded accommodation.	All Ages Aboriginal families	State Government (Communities)	Broome and Derby
Broome Homeless Drop-In Centre	<i>Centacare Kimberley Association Inc</i>	Service provides assertive outreach support for rough sleepers in remote areas of Western Australia (Broome & Kalgoorlie).	All Ages Universal	State Government (Communities)	Broome and Derby
General Foster Care Services - Regional Areas	<i>Foundations Care Ltd</i>	Service is targeted to children and young people up to 17 years of age, in the CEO's care, with a range of moderate behavioural and emotional needs. They are provided with accommodation, nurturing and support to meet their individual needs, including cultural and spiritual, in the homes of approved and registered foster families.		State Government (Communities)	Broome only

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
		General Foster Care Services are responsible for recruitment and assessment of foster carers, ongoing support and training of foster carers and identifying foster carers that best meet the needs of the children and young people referred by the Department.			
Family connection (includes family advocacy and cultural services)					
Parent Support	Communities	Works with open child protection cases for children 0-18 where the families are at imminent risk of their children coming into care. Time limited, intensive in-home support for periods up to 6 months engagement, multiple times per week.	0-18 years	State Government (Communities)	Kimberley Wide
Parent Support	Communities	Voluntary, structured home visiting service for families with infants from the antenatal period up to 2 years of age. The service focuses on protecting, enhancing and maintain infant wellbeing, parental wellbeing, family functioning and social connectedness.	0-2	State Government (Communities)	Kimberley Wide
Intensive Family Support Services – West Kimberley	Centacare Kimberley Association Inc	The service provides intensive in-home support services to families who are the most at risk of child protection intervention or families who require support to reunify their children back into their care. The Service will provide intensive in-home support for families currently working with the Department (and with an existing open case) or where there is a need for extra support to be provided to improve family wellbeing or safety.	All Ages Universal	State Government (Communities)	Broome and Derby only
Parenting Services	Anglicare WA	Parenting Services - Kimberley - Parenting Connection WA service is a universal early intervention service which offer a range of approaches that assist parents to manage the challenges of parenting, build skills knowledge and confidence, understand children's development and identify local community supports and relevant networks.	All Parents of children aged 0-18 years	State Government (Communities)	West Kimberley - Services Delivered in Broome and surrounding Aboriginal communities
Family safety (includes FDV, child abuse and neglect)					
Derby Family Violence Service Project (The Addressing Family Violence in the Kimberley)	Anglicare WA Inc	In partnership with Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation, provides integrated wrap around support to address family violence in Derby and the Mowanjum Aboriginal Community	All Ages Aboriginal families	State Government (Communities)	Derby

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
Grants Program 2020/2022)					
Change Em Ways Kimberley Project (The Addressing Family Violence in the Kimberley Grants Program 2020/2022)	<i>Mens Outreach Service Aboriginal Corporation</i>	Adapt and pilot the Change Em Ways Aboriginal men's behaviour change program in the following three communities across the Kimberley region: Bidyadanga (Broome Local Government Authority); Fitzroy Crossing (Derby/West Kimberley Local Government Authority); and Balgo/Kutjungka (Halls Creek Local Government Authority).	All Ages Aboriginal families	State Government (Communities) and NIAA (Fed)	Broome and Derby
Provision of Family and Domestic Violence Services - Derby	<i>Marnin Bowa Dumbera Aboriginal Corporation</i>	Service provides supported and/or safe accommodation to women, with/or without accompanying children, who as a result of family and domestic violence or other crisis. Breaking the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness, and assisting clients to maintain existing safe accommodation where appropriate or move to stable safe long term accommodation is a key role of Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services.		State Government (Communities)	Derby only
West Kimberley Family and Domestic Violence Coordinated Response Service	<i>Anglicare WA Inc</i>	The Family and Domestic Violence Coordinated Response Service (FDV CRS) is part of a partnership between the Department, Western Australia (WA) Police and other non-government family and domestic violence (FDV) service providers contracted by the Department. This partnership is known as the Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (FDVRT). The FDVRT jointly triages Domestic Violence Incident Reports and provides risk assessment and appropriate responses for families and individuals in incidences of family and domestic violence. Responses may include facilitating multi-agency responses on a needs basis. The FDV Coordinated Response Services will provide services as planned through the triage process.		State Government (Communities)	Broome and Derby only
Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - Safe House Model - Fitzroy Crossing	<i>Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation</i>	Service provides supported and/or safe accommodation to women, with/or without accompanying children, who as a result of family and domestic violence or other crisis. Breaking the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness, and assisting clients to maintain existing safe accommodation where appropriate or move to stable safe long term accommodation is a key role of Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services.		State Government (Communities)	Fitzroy Crossing, may be accessed by families in Derby
Indigenous Child Sexual Abuse Response Service - Marooloo	<i>Anglicare WA Inc</i>	Service provides healing, support, counselling and therapeutic responses to children and young people and their families affected by child sexual abuse, people who have experienced childhood sexual abuse and children and/or young people who are responsible for, or at risk of sexually abusing other children.		State Government (Communities)	Derby only

State-wide or national service available to Derby Community

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
National Immunisation Program (Free routine immunisation)		The NIP provides the routine childhood immunisations recommended for all children in Australia, free of charge.	Children 0-4 years	State/Commonwealth Government	State-wide
Better Beginnings State Library WA	Better Beginnings	Supports parents in reading to children so that they build the early literacy skills they need to become good readers and succeed at school. Better Beginnings aims to develop literacy skills in young children through fostering a love of books and language by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introducing children to developmentally appropriate books and language activities through the delivery of free books and reading packs to parents of newborns and children beginning kindergarten and preschool. •Supporting parents as their child's most important teacher in modelling early literacy practices through providing interactive literacy and parenting information sessions at libraries and in the community. •Raising awareness of the value and pleasure of reading sharing stories with children through the program's marketing messages, training practitioners delivering the program and lending literacy resources to child care centres, playgroups, schools and other community groups. •Linking families to the resources and services that libraries offer people of all ages. 		Statewide	
Country Families @ Ngala	Ngala	A pilot of delivery of statewide child health and parenting services through media and technology. Includes Country Early Parenting Group (via videoconference) for families of babies 0-4 months; half-hour VC/telephone consults; Facebook group; live chat via Ngala website; and online workshops on sleep, feeding, behaviour, toileting, and managing a baby and toddler. Run by a Child Health Nurse and accessible from home/Community Resource Centres. No fixed schedule available so likely scheduled based on demand.		State wide	
Homelessness Helpline	Phone Support	Ph helpline: Homelessness 1800 065 892	Universal Homelessness		
Rural Link	Rural Link	Afterhours mental health support line for rural communities	Rural community members	Statewide	
1800 Respect	National sexual assault, DV family	24 hr phone/internet support and counselling hotline	Universal	Federal Medibank	National hotline

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
	<i>violence counselling service</i>				
Parenting Connection	<i>State wide partnership between Ngala and Anglicare WA that draws on Wanslea's expertise in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern.</i>	<p>Parenting Connection WA (PCWA) delivers high-quality, evidence-based, locally connected parenting services across most of Western Australia.</p> <p>Partnership Coordinators to help communities refocus services for children and families, and strengthen the capacity of communities to promote positive outcomes for children.</p> <p>Operate on a state-wide model to provide a consistent service approach to parents and caregivers across WA, adapted to local needs with a focus on collaboration and partnership. This approach connects and supports parents, caregivers and their children across WA with a customised suite of universal and targeted services to meet locally identified priorities.</p> <p>A Local Parenting Partnership Coordinator in each region works with the local community to deliver services to parents and caregivers. Parenting Partnership Coordinators come from a variety of backgrounds including community development and social services, and are trained in the Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) / Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) Platforms framework.</p> <p>Platforms framework training assists Parenting Partnership Coordinators to help communities refocus services for children and families, and strengthen the capacity of communities to promote positive outcomes for children.</p> <p>A Local Area Partnership Group (LAPG) provides advice and guidance to the local operations of PCWA. PCWA build on existing services, and work closely with Child and Parent Centres in relevant locations and existing local parenting networks such as the Early Years Networks, ensuring that parenting needs across the broader local region are being met and duplication avoided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting education workshops around engaging with children and teens, managing more than one child, transitioning to school, positive youth mental health, toileting, bedtime battles, morning routines, and protective behaviours • Parenting programs such as Circle of Security and Tuning into Kids or Teens 	Universal	State Government (Communities)	<p>Statewide, including the Kimberley.</p> <p>Kimberley Local Parenting Partnership Co-ordinator: Kimberley.PCWA@anglicarewa.org.au</p>

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting information sessions • Individual parenting consultations • Parenting support and playtime groups, where parents and caregivers meet weekly to stay, chat and learn • Education for professionals to support parents and caregivers • Engagement with Local Area Partnership Groups and agencies • Community information and resources • Events that raise awareness of healthy child development through positive parenting 			