

2025 National Forum on Australia's Wellbeing

Wellbeing In Action

21st to 23rd October 2025 Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country - Canberra

PRESENTATIONS: WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS AND FOR YOUTH

"HOW MIGHT SCHOOL GROUNDS BE DESIGNED FOR IMPROVED STUDENT WELLBEING?"

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



GWENETH LEIGH
UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

JUST BECAUSE WE BUILD IT... DOESN'T MEAN THEY'LL USE IT



IT WOULD BE GOOD TO GET MORE DATA ON THIS



PHONE BANDS ARE WORKING

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS:

- HIGH DENSITY
- HIGH CONTACT
- HIGHLY COMPETITIVE

PLAYGROUNDS:

YEAH, I'LL JUST GO BACK INSIDE, WHERE IT'S QUIET.

AND SAFE.



• CANTEEN
• LIBRARY
(GIRLS)



STORIES MATTER.

OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL LANDSCAPES ARE:

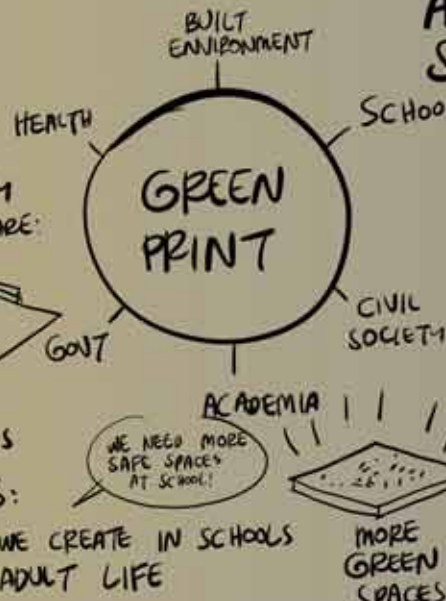
- PAVED
- BARE
- HOT



WITH FEW OPTIONS

PATTERNS:

THE PATTERNS WE CREATE IN SCHOOLS REPEAT IN ADULT LIFE



MORE GREEN SPACES

SCHOOLS WITH STRONGER CLIMATES PRODUCE GREATER ACADEMIC AND WELLBEING PERFORMANCE



EMMA KNIGHT
- AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

AGENT BASED MODELLING:

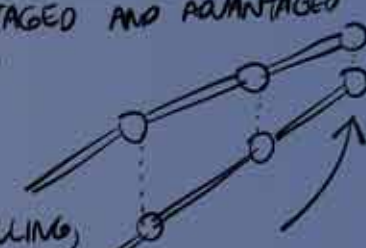
NETLOGO



DEVELOPED A MODEL REPRESENTING MECHANISMS DRIVING THE WIDENING GAP BETWEEN DISADVANTAGED AND ADVANTAGED STUDENTS IN THEIR FINAL 4 YEARS OF SCHOOL

TESTING SCHOOL BELONGING

THE MODEL SHOWS A CLOSING OF GAPS BETWEEN DISADVANTAGED AND ADVANTAGED STUDENTS



WITH THIS DATA MODELLING, WE AIM TO CLOSE THE GAPS BETWEEN ADVANTAGED AND DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

USING LSAC DATA:

(LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN)

WE RAN MODELS ON SELF HARM & SUICIDE

DOMAINS AS PROTECTIVE PREDICTORS OF ADOLESCENT OUTCOMES

- VALUED, LOVED AND SAFE AT ALL AGE GROUPS WAS PROTECTIVE
- MATERIAL BASICS WAS MORE PROTECTIVE AT YOUNGER AGES
- PARTICIPATING WAS MORE PROTECTIVE AT OLDER AGES



PAUL CAMPBELL
- AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SUBDOMAINS AS PROTECTIVE PREDICTORS OF ADOLESCENT OUTCOMES

- SELF HARM IDEATION: GOOD STATE OF MIND AND SENSE OF WELLBEING AGE 12-13
- SELF HARM BEHAVIOUR: RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS, INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY AT AGE 10-11
- SUICIDE IDEATION: SENSE OF BELONGING (AGE 10-11)
- SUICIDE ATTEMPT: SCHOOL SAFETY (AGE 6-7)
- SCHOOL SATISFACTION (AGE 10-11)



GWENETH AND I SHOULD PROBABLY COLLABORATE!

