



Evaluating creatively: Capturing the authentic voices of children and young people involved in early intervention programs

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Acknowledgment of Country

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pay my respects to Aboriginal Elders past, present and emerging and any other Aboriginal people here today.

I also pay respect to and acknowledge their continued spiritual and cultural connection to the Country that we meet on today.

Outline

- What is Champions?
- Capturing the voice of the child
- Using bodymapping with CYP
- Outcomes from bodymapping experiences
- Lessons for future evaluations

Who are CareSouth Champions?

- Early Intervention program founded in 1992 in Shoalhaven region (Nowra – Ulladulla) as 'Aunties and Uncles'
- Aim of the program is to improve CYP wellbeing and developmental outcomes
- Provides youth mentoring to CYP aged 3-12 years
- Relies on volunteer carers



Capturing the voice of the child (or young person)

- Historical child protection context
- Supporting the capture of the 'child voice' in evaluations facilitates:
 - Level of agency for CYP
 - Provides a 'child lens'
 - Promotes ownership
- Undertaken as part of a wider program evaluation

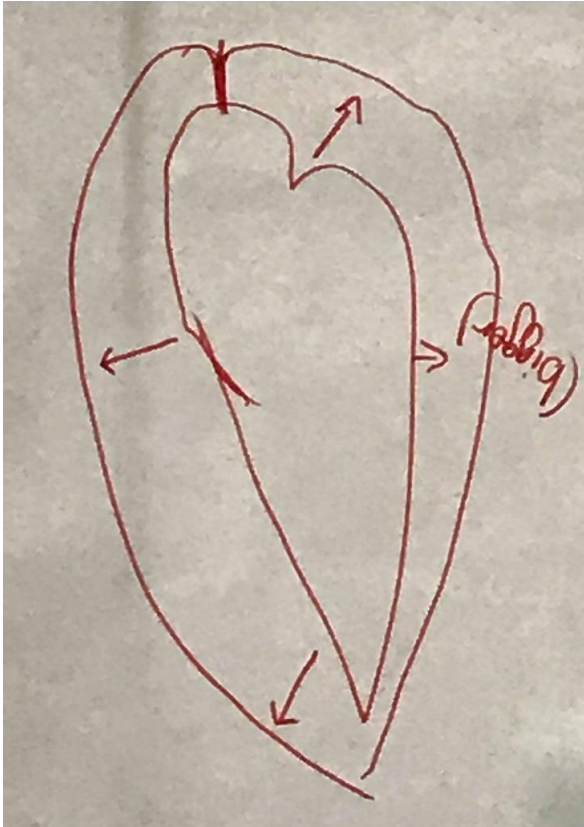


Using bodymapping with Champions CYP

- Undertaken over two sessions – during school holidays in Sept/Oct and April 2019
- CYP were supported by coordinators
- Captured the voices of 19/22 YP participating in program



What were the outcomes of the bodymapping?



1. Better understanding of the views of CYP
2. CYP reported increases in:
 - Time spent outdoors
 - Amount of social connections and community activities
 - Feelings of psycho-social wellbeing
3. Used to increase the profile of the program throughout organization
4. Outcomes used as a guide for extending service delivery options
5. When used as part of mixed methods evaluation provide unique insights and additional detail

Lessons and Limitations

- Facilitation methods are vital
- Larger numbers are not necessarily better
- Capturing 'key' statements
- Participation did not vary based on age, rather length of program participation
- Useful tool for collecting program impacts
- Provided important guidance for selection of validated tools for baseline with CYP and families
- New experiences take some perfecting



Thank you

For further information please contact on
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