



## Brain Building for Better Futures

Developing healthy, happy, resilient brains for the children of Logan and beyond

### The Brain Building for Better Futures project

The Logan community has told us they want themselves and those who wrap around their children to deepen their knowledge of brain building to collectively build better futures for Logan's kids.

Brain building works with families, communities, the workforce, and those responsible for policy decisions to build and share a common language and practice for collective wellbeing. Brain Building for Better Futures is a partnership connecting wisdom of place, culture, people and science. Logan Together and Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership are joining together to walk alongside community and work with key people to design an approach to brain building in place. This will include aspects such as training, service mapping and translation of science to practice.

The project will be informed by local, national and international resources and research, including how shared understandings, language and practices have been implemented within communities and across sectors to help children and families have the best chance in life no matter where they live. A process of co-design will tailor this knowledge to the Logan community and contexts, with nominated local leaders trained to share it with others.

An **implementation guide** and a **train-the-trainer kit** will be developed to support scaling to other services, sectors and settings beyond the Logan community and to help widen the impact of project learnings.

### Background

In 2023, the Queensland Mental Health Commission, through the Better Futures grant program, called for new initiatives to trial innovative approaches and build the evidence to drive system reform. The initiatives required alignment with *Shifting Minds: The Queensland Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs and Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan 2023-2028*, and its associated sub plans.

**Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership (TQKP)**, in partnership with **Logan Together** and others, submitted a successful grant application to support the creation of tools that will help share and embed current knowledge of what works best for child health, wellbeing and development. These tools will be co-developed with and through the Logan community as the basis for scaling elsewhere.

TQKP is an initiative of ARACY – the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, together with Queensland leaders and organisations. In line with ARACY's national focus on holistic health and wellbeing for all Australian children, TQKP and its partners are driving sustainable systemic change across Queensland so all children and young people in Queensland can thrive – now and into the future. With particular attention to prevention, early intervention, and equity, TQKP works primarily through connecting with communities to catalyse targeted action where it is needed; facilitating collaboration, learning and distributed leadership; and amplifying young voices. For more information, see [www.tqkp.org.au](http://www.tqkp.org.au)

**Logan Together** is a whole of community movement, first and foremost guided by their “3 Pillars”:

- *First Nations First*
- *Children at the Heart*
- *Community Led*

Logan Together brings together a diverse group of people and organisations fully committed to these pillars, including:

- First Nations Elders, community members, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations;
- community members;
- businesses;
- community and service organisations; and
- government agencies.

Logan Together works towards common goals, aligning priorities and strategies, tackles issues, and celebrates successes that are central to the Logan community. By working together and utilising everyone's strengths, Logan Together is creating a brighter future for Logan's children and families, determined to see children happy, healthy and thriving now and for generations to come. For more information, see [www.logantogether.org.au](http://www.logantogether.org.au)

### The Governance Group

The *Brain Building for Better Futures* project will be overseen by Logan Together's First 2000 Days Governance Group. This group is responsible for governance and oversight of the implementation of Logan's Re-imagined Early Childhood System, including the enabler of 'Brain Building' across five Logan Together Focus Communities. It is proposed that the project be trialed in one of these communities.

### The Co-Design Team

This diverse, community-led group will work collaboratively to co-design and implement the project, supporting trialling in the Logan community. It will include those with a deep understanding of Logan's rich history, contexts, and cultural and socio-economic diversity, those with lived/living experiences, as well as those with broader expertise in brain-building research, programs and approaches. It will comprise representatives of:

- Logan First Nations Elders and community
- Logan culturally and linguistically diverse community members
- Logan community members, including those with lived/living experience\*
- Brisbane South Primary Health Network
- Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation
- Pathways to Resilience
- Head2Health Kids (Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service)
- FamilyLinQ
- PeachTree Perinatal Wellness
- UQ's Queensland Brain Institute
- Alberta Family Wellness Initiative/Palix Foundation
- Local government and non-government organisations

### The Project Team

The Project Team is made up of three members from each of the backbone teams of Logan Together and TQKP. This team is responsible for the planning and on-time delivery of the project, by coordinating and delivering operational, logistical, strategic engagement and facilitation aspects of the project.

### How and when

The project is being delivered over 12 months to September 2025. Key tasks include the following:

- establish project governance and foundations;
- engage Logan stakeholders, including its First Nations community;
- develop a map of the focus community services and assets according to the function/s they serve in building child and family resilience;
- develop, trial and evaluate train-the-trainer materials; and
- develop an implementation guide to support uptake by others.

### Further information / project contacts

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#### Logan Together

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