SPACE, PLACE AND RELATIONSHIPS: UNDERSTANDING CONNECTEDNESS AND BELONGING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITY IN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Connectedness and a sense of belonging are not only critically important for wellbeing but also for understanding inclusion and exclusion. Little is known about the ways that young people with cognitive disability connect with places and people, or about their perspectives on belonging, particularly within regional communities.

This research will investigate the lived experience of connectedness and belonging for young people with cognitive disability living in regional communities. The views of the young people on participating in research and potentially influencing policy decisions at local, state and federal levels will also be gathered through the research process.

- Three tailored, innovative approaches will be used to explore these concepts with young people with cognitive disability aged 13 – 18:
  - narrative interviews;
  - photovoice, a project based approach which supports the visual documentation, critical discussion and collective analysis of important issues by participants; and
  - collaboratively designed accessible interactive online surveys of young people with cognitive disability in regional communities across Australia.

The research aims to improve the responsiveness of disability policy and practice by supporting and educating young people to be key informants. In doing so, the research will also shed new light on the possibilities for incorporating the views of young people with cognitive disability while documenting collaboratively with them the benefits and limitations of their participation.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

February 2013 – June 2014

PROJECT PARTNER

Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW
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RESEARCH TEAM

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