



North Central LLEN

Creating opportunities for all children
and young people to be on their way to
success in education, work and life.

MEDIA RELEASE

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Child and Young Adult Census in Buloke and Loddon Shires

The North Central LLEN is about to facilitate the trialling of a new early life monitoring system designed to follow the social and emotional development of children and young people to better understand how young Australians think and feel about their lives.

The project will focus from early childhood (birth to 3 years), into middle childhood (9 and 12 years), adolescence (15 and 18 years) and young adult life (18 to 21 years) and will be held across the Buloke and Loddon Shires, with the Young Adult Census as the first stage.

According to North Central LLEN Executive Officer Jane Hosking, this is the first time a study of this magnitude has been undertaken in Australia, and the information will help inform the way we support all children and young people in the future.

“We know poor mental health and social connectedness are among the most debilitating and costly health problems facing families, communities and countries globally.”

“Most have their origins in the very earlier experiences of childhood and adolescence, with almost all problems peaking in adulthood (18-24 years),” said Ms Hosking.

“Despite this we currently have no systematic way of identifying young people at risk and informing government where supports are most urgently needed early in life.”

“This method of understanding our population holds considerable promise for strengthening community-based approaches to promoting mental health, and preventing mental disorder, within and across generations,” she said.

Ms Hosking says the project builds on decades of longitudinal research that has repeatedly shown that every age and stage of development matters in the trajectories that children and young people take.

“A life course approach to monitoring and supporting the social and emotional growth of children and young people is essential for strengthening populations to successful psychosocial adjustment across the entire life course,” she said.

Participation is confidential and the first stage involves young people between the ages of 18 and 21 who have left school completing a short survey (less than 10 minutes) which can be found at redcap.link/youngadult.

The project is being led by the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) as an extension of the Australian Early Development Census in Victoria, in collaboration with Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development at Deakin University, the Human Early Learning Partnership (University of British Columbia, Canada), and the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne).

It is being funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Victorian Department of Education and Training, and the Ian Potter Foundation.

For more information about the Australian Early Developmental Census Extension Project, visit www.ncllen.org.au.

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For more information please contact Jane Hosking on 0439 886 339.