

## Space, Place and Relationships: Belonging and Connection in Regional Communities

Feeling like you belong and that you are connected to people and places is fundamental to young people's identity. For young people with cognitive disability who live in regional Australia, very little is known about what helps and what hinders belonging and connection in their communities.



### Research Design

Funded by the National Disability Research Data Working Group, this project explored what helps young people with cognitive disability who live in country areas feel like they belong and they are connected. The project applied ideas from social geography to explore understandings of belonging and connection with young people with cognitive disability. Thirty young people with cognitive disability took part in participatory research in three regional towns in NSW, Victoria and Queensland. They researched belonging and connection using a range of accessible research methods including photographic projects, pictorial mapping and interviews.

All thirty co-researchers contributed substantially to the project, through interviews, workshops, analysing their photographic data, and in public exhibitions of their work. An easy English online survey was also completed by twenty six young people with cognitive disability in additional regional communities.

### Research Team

**Investigators:** A/Prof Sally Robinson, Prof Anne Graham (CCYP, SCU), Prof Karen Fisher, A/Prof Kylie Valentine (SPRC, UNSW), Prof Malcolm Hill (University of Strathclyde).

**Research Partners:** Stephanie Gotlib (Children and Young People with Disability Australia), Yvette Proud (NSW Council for Intellectual Disability).

## Academic Publications to Date

Robinson, S., Hill, M., Fisher, K. & Graham, A. (2018) Belonging and exclusion in the lives of young people with intellectual disability in small town communities. *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*, early online [doi:10.1111/1471-3802.12417](https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-3802.12417)

Robinson, S., Fisher, K.R., Hill, M. & Graham, A. (2017) In the picture: perspectives of young people with cognitive disability on rural and regional life; in K. Soldatic & K. Johnson (eds) *Disability & Rurality: Identity, Gender and Belonging*. London, Routledge.

Robinson, S., Fisher, K.R., Hill, M. & Graham, A. (2017) Views of young people with cognitive disability about care in their relationships. In J. Horton & M. Pyer (eds) *Children, Young People and Care*. London, Routledge.

## Outputs to Date



*Project Reports & Summaries*

Full Project Report

Summary Report

Easy Read Report



[Plain English Webpage with Photo](#)

[Gallery](#)

