



Healthy Trajectories

A Child and Youth Disability Research Hub



Welcome to our Healthy Trajectories May Newsletter!

A message from our Director, Christine Imms

It's an important time in Australia, with a lot of focus on how we can create a more inclusive society together. After findings are delivered from reviews like the NDIS Review and the Royal Commission, there is often a keen interest to see immediate change. But good change is co-designed, with checks along the way to see if we are getting it right.

In this newsletter you will see opportunities to get involved in ways that can help Australia become a more inclusive country. Our focus is on children and youth growing up with disability - they are our future leaders, colleagues, friends and family...so I hope as you read on, you might find a place for your voice and contribution to the change we want to see.

News from Healthy Trajectories

Extended application deadline for our 2024 Family Engagement in Research Course



Last chance to participate in our Family Engagement in Research Course



How can I meaningfully involve people with a disability in my research?

Application deadline extended to Wednesday 12th June 5.00pm

[Apply Now](#)

Healthy Trajectories is pleased to be accepting applications for our Family Engagement in Research (FER) course 2024!

The application deadline has been extended to Wednesday the 12th of June 2024 at 5.00pm (AEST) to allow more participants to join us for this unique course.

The course is designed to foster connection and understanding between researchers and families, and encourage co-design with experts in research and experts in lived experiences.

[Apply for our FER course](#)

[You can also watch interviews from four past participants on the Healthy Trajectories YouTube page.](#)

More information about the FER course is available [on our website](#).

Independent Review Announced

Healthy Trajectories are delighted to be partners in an outstanding consortium funded by the [Department of Social Services](#) to independently review best practice in early childhood intervention and develop a new Early Childhood Intervention Best Practice Framework. This framework will help to ensure children growing up in Australia with disability or developmental concerns and their families are well supported and have every chance to thrive.

How to get involved

The Early Childhood Intervention Best Practice Framework will be developed through deep consultation with parents, caregivers, professionals and researchers in the early childhood community across Australia.

The team looks forward to hearing from and working with all those with an interest in supporting the early years of children's lives as we begin this vital work. If you would like to contribute, or to receive updates on progress please register your interest via the button below.

[Register your interest here](#)

Seed funding recipient Dr Anthea Skinner's success in bridging the gap in music accessibility with the Melbourne Youth Orchestras program



Above: A photo of a woman with a prosthetic arm plays a piano (left), a profile photo of Dr Skinner (right)

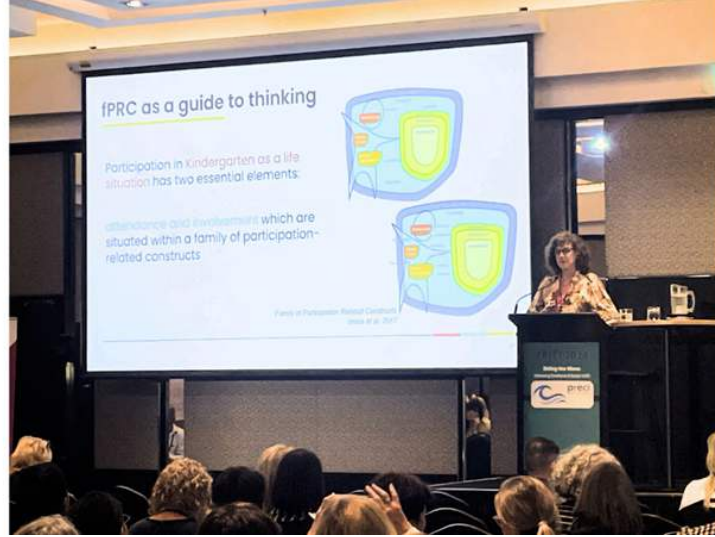
Dr Anthea Skinner and her team were one of Healthy Trajectories' [Seed funding recipients in 2022](#). Their research project, titled *Music Technologies For People with Disabilities: Creating a Framework to Assess Suitability for Individual Students*, has been producing fantastic results already.

As a person with lived experience of disability, Anthea has a personal connection to her research to make the study of music and use of musical instruments more accessible. Anthea's team has not only developed connections with companies that can create adaptive musical instruments of different shapes and sizes, but they have also founded the [Adaptive Music Bridging Program](#) with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra. This amazing program engages children aged between 8 and 14 years who have a disability, chronic illness, mental health conditions or who are Deaf, or neurodiverse, to encourage and foster their love for music.

Anthea's work has inspired news articles in a variety of places, including heart-warming stories in [The Age \(paid article\)](#) and [Southbank News](#) about the participants of her project joyfully connecting and reconnecting with musical instruments.

Recently, Anthea and the team has gone on to receive ARC Early Career Industry Fellowships 2024 funding, which Healthy Trajectories would like to congratulate them on. We're looking forward to hearing more!

Christine's keynote at PRECI: 'Participation - start with the end in mind'



Above: Christine at the PRECI conference giving her speech "Participation - start with the end in mind"

As we welcomed the month of May in less-than-sunny Melbourne, our Director Christine Imms gave a presentation at the 2nd national PRECI conference that took place in Queensland. The conference spanned three days and presentations focused on what is needed to deliver high quality, evidence-based early childhood intervention, with national and international Keynote speakers and local presentations and workshops.

PhD Opportunity



Above: A father holding his child, who has a disability

Fathering children with significant disability can be challenging, yet few support services exist for fathers. Furthermore, little research exists to understand the father's experience of disability caregiving and the cultural and socioeconomic factors that impact this role.

The aim of this comparative research is to determine how best to facilitate the positive participation of father-caregivers of children with a significant disability in Australia and India, so to positively influence the wellbeing of their children and families. An initial co-design research project (MCRI/MSPGH) called "DAD-CARE" (Dads and disability- Co-designing Assistance and Research to Empower) has been exploring the role of father caregivers in disability Australia and parallel project has focused on India.

We have scholarship position to support a domestic PhD student, jointly supervised through the School of Health Science and MSPGH, to undertake further comparative research in this space.

If you are interested in this PhD opportunity, please contact [Professor Nathan Grills](#).

[Contact Nathan Grills](#)

In case you missed it

We loved [this article written by Healthy Trajectories Ambassador Eliza Hull for the ABC](#), featuring her story about travelling with a disability and overcoming internalised shame over appearances. Give it a read if you have the chance!



This last month also saw Oliver Hunter perform his new stand-up show "Baby on Board" at the Double Tree by Hilton. More information is available on [his Instagram](#). Give him a follow for more!



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The Healthy Trajectories Child and Youth Disability Research Hub acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways on which we work, and pays respect to the Elders, past and present.

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