



**STRONG kids,
STRONG future**



WOMINJEKA

Welcome to the December edition of the ASQ-STEPS newsletter!

We are excited to share some of the work we have been doing in 2024. Working with communities, we are co-creating a culturally responsive tool to measure young children's developmental progress and support early childhood programs.

We're grateful for the opportunity to walk this journey together.

Project Summary

The ASQ-Steps for Measuring Aboriginal Child Development (ASQ-STEPS) is a culturally responsive developmental outcome measure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. This means it can be used to measure child developmental progress, and collect evidence to evaluate early childhood programs, interventions and initiatives.

Co-created and piloted with communities in the Northern Territory and South Australia, the ASQ-STEPS is now being **validated**. The goal of the validation study is to explore whether the ASQ-STEPS is accurate at measuring child development and whether it consistently produces reliable results (reliability).

The ASQ-STEPS validation study uses a participatory action research approach that involves a collaboration between researchers, participants and their community.

Where is the ASQ-STEPS study happening?

- 1 Arrente Country
- 2 Barngarla Country
- 3 Barngarla & Nukunu Country
- 4 Kunwinjku Country
- 5 Dharawal Country
- 6 Wulgurukaba & Bindal Country



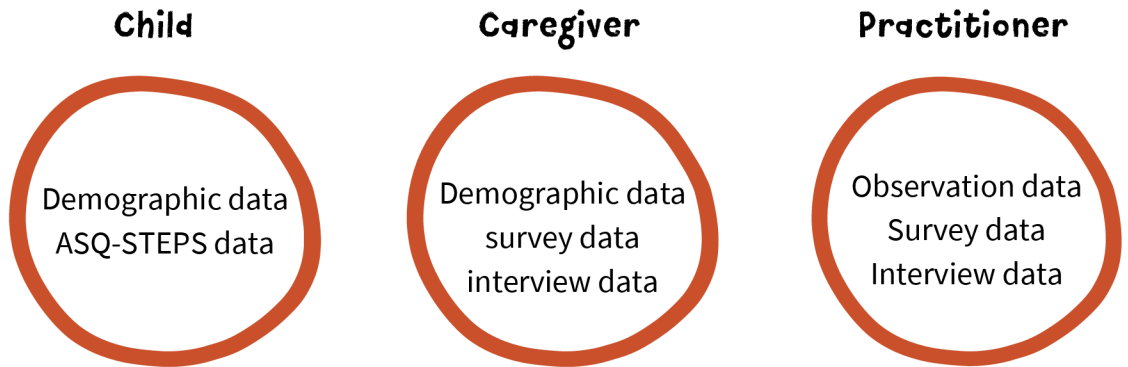
December 2024

Newsletter

STRONG kids, STRONG future works in partnership with communities to develop culturally appropriate developmental measurement tools for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. We gratefully acknowledge the families and organisations that have worked with us on this project.

What information have we collected?

The ASQ-STEPS Validation study is moving into the next stage of the research. Data collection has now finished at the research sites and the team will start exploring the data. To validate the ASQ-STEPS we have collected different types of data from children, caregivers and practitioners.



These data will be used to explore:

- The accuracy of the ASQ-STEPS instrument to measure children's developmental progress
- Caregivers' experiences participating in an ASQ-STEPS and the acceptability of the tool
- Practitioners' perspectives of utility and acceptability of the ASQ-STEPS
- Enablers and barriers to administering the ASQ-STEPS

What's next ...



Want to learn more about the ASQ-STEPS research program? Follow the QR code for more information.



Connections On Country

This artwork represents family, children, and community coming together. Support and connections are built. Pathways and journey lines connecting everyone gives a sense of togetherness, strength and growth.

Chloe Sumner, Barka Arts

