



Evidence and  
Implementation  
Summit 2023  
9-11 October

Melbourne, Australia & Online



Behavioural and Implementation  
Science Interventions  
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



Centre for  
Evidence and  
Implementation

[www.eisummit.org](http://www.eisummit.org)

[@EISSUMMIT2023](https://twitter.com/EISSUMMIT2023)

[#EIS2023](https://twitter.com/EISSUMMIT2023)

## #364 - Implementation of the Early Years Partnership across four diverse communities in Western Australia

### Presenting Author(s)\*

Dr Jillian Whelan<sup>1</sup>

### Affiliation

<sup>1</sup> Department of Communities, Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia.

### Country of residence

Australia

### Objectives/aims

The Early Years Partnership is a collaboration between three government departments (communities, health, and education), a philanthropic organisation (Minderoo Foundation), supported by an evidence and evaluation function (Telethon Kids Institute), and the Federal Government.

This presentation describes the implementation of this complex initiative that aims to improve child wellbeing and school readiness of children aged 0-4 years, in four Western Australian communities and, in doing so, learn what it takes to create change for children across the State.

To address issues related to child development, the partnership combines systems science, implementation science and quality improvement cycles to co-create, implement and evaluate context specific actions to improve child development across four geographically diverse communities. Specifically, this presentation will overview how systems science and implementation science are combined to achieve an understanding of objective outcome measures (changes in child development) complimented with an emphasis on implementation science measures through a hybrid Type II trial approach.

### Methods

This presentation will explain the combination of systems science and implementation science through two case studies implemented in two of the four communities. It will explore how the initiative was co-designed through group model building with multiple and diverse stakeholder groups, describe the role of the philanthropic funder and the high-level governance board. It will then explain how systems thinking tools were used to prioritise intervention components with the highest potential systems impact; how implementation strategies were chosen, implemented, and evaluated. The Pragmatic, Robust Implementation and



Evidence and  
Implementation  
Summit 2023  
9-11 October

Melbourne, Australia & Online



Behavioural and Implementation  
Science Interventions  
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



Centre for  
Evidence and  
Implementation

[www.eisummit.org](http://www.eisummit.org)

[@EISSUMMIT2023](https://twitter.com/EISSUMMIT2023)

[#EIS2023](https://twitter.com/EISSUMMIT2023)

Sustainment Model (PRISM), incorporating the RE-AIM framework is the guiding Implementation Science framework used. One case study describes the co-design and implementation of a dental project in a regional centre of Western Australia that aimed to improve oral health, the second case study describes the co-design and implementation phase of a 'mens space' in a very remote Aboriginal community in Western Australia that aimed to help men become better fathers and caregivers.

### **Main findings**

Fidelity to theoretical constructs of co-design enhances community engagement in the design and implementation phase. Exploration of inner and outer contexts requires inputs from multiple stakeholders, including government partners with robust links to and understanding of policy contexts, strong existing community partnerships and relationships built through culturally appropriate methods.

Exploration of context identified policy opportunities and strategic partnerships where partners were able to leverage opportunities for the benefit of the partnership. Implementation evaluation through RE-AIM identified alignment between adoption and representation of the target population with the potential reach. Effectiveness was measured as number and quality of interactions (e.g. referral to follow-up). Alongside choice of implementation strategies, data related to costs to implement, and adaptations from original design were collected. Within maintenance, potential for scale up and sustainment is planned from the commencement of the intervention, but is yet to be objectively measured as five funded years remain in the life of the Early Years Partnership.

### **Conclusions**

Implementation science provides insights on 'how' changes occur and provides insights to plan for scale up and sustainability and adds value to existing outcome evaluations.