

Joomunjie Land - A Sanctuary for Children

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Joomunjie Land is so much more than a loose parts adventure play space. So much more than an area filled with odds and ends, construction materials, tools, swings and trees, hills, critters, sand, dirt, mud and water. So much more.

This presentation tells story of a wonderland in the rough. A real story of hope and renewal, belonging and becoming, health and wellbeing.

The child-sanctuary of Joomunjie Land was planned, designed, built, marketed, launched, and sustained by local children from Eagleby, supported by Australian Institute of Play. Nestled in a wild and unkempt out-of-bounds area of a primary school, within one of Logan's lower socioeconomic areas, with high levels of crime, violence, drug use, lots of stigma and houses full of children. Under these challenging conditions and living with the lottery of life, Joomunjie Land has become the community backyard and garden enabling these neighbourhood children to nurture themselves. To thrive and oppose the national and global childhood trends of negative developmental vulnerability and poor physical and mental health outcomes.

This presentation will unpack the data from a recent independent evaluation conducted by Griffith University, exploring the impact of Joomunjie Land. Child agency, connection, joy, happiness, resilience, sense of community, cultural competence, and community intelligence are being fostered, not just for the children, for the entire community since Joomunjie Land opened 2 years ago.

The Child Sanctuary of Joomunjie Land is helping this neighbourhood imagine and create a new story for this community centred on supporting their children to have amazing childhoods full of real play.