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| **Creating a WAVE: shaping healthier futures for children and young people in South Canterbury, New Zealand** |
| **Setting/problem**  There is strong evidence that health promotion in schools can improve children’s health and wellbeing. Good health in childhood is strongly linked with positive health outcomes later in life. The focus of WAVE (Wellbeing and Vitality in Education), in accordance with the IUHPE guidelines is on a combination of curriculum, environment, partnerships and policies.  **Intervention**  WAVE, unique to South Canterbury, is based on a dramatic expansion of health promotion in education settings across the province. In 2018 WAVE celebrates 11 years since its inception of working in partnership with health, education and community across all 96 education settings in the district (total student population over 10,000).  WAVE’s stated vision is “supporting our children and young people to learn well and be well”.  Key aims:   * Work in partnership to achieve outcomes for health and education * Address key lifestyle issues by focusing on education setting environment (“making the healthy choice, the easy choice”) * Involve children, parents, Māori and the community * Target settings and communities with the highest needs * Evidenced-based and carefully evaluated.   WAVE has a strong commitment to evaluation undertaken every second year across all settings.  **Outcomes**  Presentation will report on findings of 2018 evaluation that uses mixed method approach for assessing change over time, and includes focus on factors that lead to sustainable change in education settings. Presentation will share learnings from the WAVE journey, and partnership approach involving South Canterbury District Health Board, its’ public health unit Community & Public Health, alignment with Māori, Sport Canterbury (regional sports trust), and other non-governmental organisations plus education settings from early childhood to tertiary institutions.  **Implications**  Strong partnerships and recognition of needs of all parties are keys to success in health promotion in education, specifically:  \* “Facilitator” role provides a vital and valued link and support for education settings  \* Intersectoral partnerships and change take time  \* Careful attention to evaluation supports continuous improvement and provides a powerful tool for telling the story of your success  \* Commitment to developing and maintaining effective partnerships critical to project sustainability  \* Comprehensive approach to effective health promotion with education settings requires commitment and engagement with early childhood through to tertiary settings  \* Effective health promotion needs to be responsive to needs of education sector.  **Preferred presentation format:** Oral |