

Caring for our children through neighbourhood street design?

Neighbourhood streets that are safe and welcoming to children are integral to a child friendly city. In Aotearoa/New Zealand, as elsewhere, our transport system has not had children's wellbeing front of mind and has contributed to streets that are often feared spaces for children and their parents.

Consequences include the privatisation of play and declining levels of physical activity. As transport professionals we have some responsibility for arresting this decline and transforming our streets and neighbourhoods to better care for our children and nurture their wellbeing.

This is a task to be shared across communities and agencies, yet at a neighbourhood scale, we struggle to secure collaboration between actors in the delivery of safe, healthy, and playful streets.

This presentation will draw on international case studies of child friendly city planning as well as local research on children's experiences of neighbourhood streets and a case study of cross agency collaboration in the provision of active travel infrastructure.