***Impactful co-design* with children in Aotearoa: a new path forward**

Research from Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ) and beyond indicates a disconnect between children’s ideas and tangible outcomes in local environments, even when rates of child participation in such initiatives is high. Recent research in Aotearoa NZ demonstrates that children have important ideas about health and health-promoting local environments that warrant their meaningful participation in making positive change. But how can we achieve this? The “Actualising children’s ideas from co-design” research project aimed to highlight the practical wisdom of adult decision-makers engaged in co-design with children aged 5-13 years in Aotearoa NZ. Insights were collected with ten practitioners and policy-makers, from May to July 2023, via individual interviews on Zoom. The focus of this project was understanding what mattered most for bringing children’s ideas to life, specifically for initiatives in local environments that support health and wellbeing. Participants shared insights from a range of sectors including transport, youth/community development, landscape architecture, education, and mental health. Interview transcripts were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. Project participants were invited to provide individual feedback on preliminary findings. From this, we refined the novel concept of impactful co-design, grounded in knowledge that was co-generated with adult decision-makers. This practical vision encompasses three key themes around people, process and planning. In the words of one participant: *“…children are smart and competent and bright and good thinkers and they think up different ideas than you would come up with.*” If we are committed to involving communities on the journey to climate-friendly transport in Aotearoa NZ, that mission includes children’s ideas and influence. Impactful co-design offers us one path to enact children’s power for positive change.