

Using digital surveillance to improve engagement with developmental checks in South Western Sydney: Experiences of parents and clinicians

Christa Lam-Cassettari^{1,2}, Nazmul Huda^{1,2}, Rutu Trivedi¹ & Valsamma Eapen^{1,2,3}



E: c.lamcassettari@unsw.edu.au



1 University of New South Wales, School of Clinical Medicine, Discipline of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Sydney, Australia; 2 Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, Liverpool, Australia; 3 South Western Sydney Local Health District, NSW, Australia

Introduction

- Increasing prevalence of developmental disorders in early childhood poses a significant global health burden [1].
- Around **one in five children** commence school with “developmental vulnerabilities”. The rate is **double in disadvantaged communities** [2].
- Uptake of developmental screening for toddlers is low [3].
- This study evaluates screening outcomes using a web-based tool “Watch Me Grow” (WMG) in primary care settings.

Objective

Describe the experience of parents in South Western Sydney engaging with an innovative web-based tool (“Watch Me Grow”, WMG) for developmental checks (see Figure 1.)

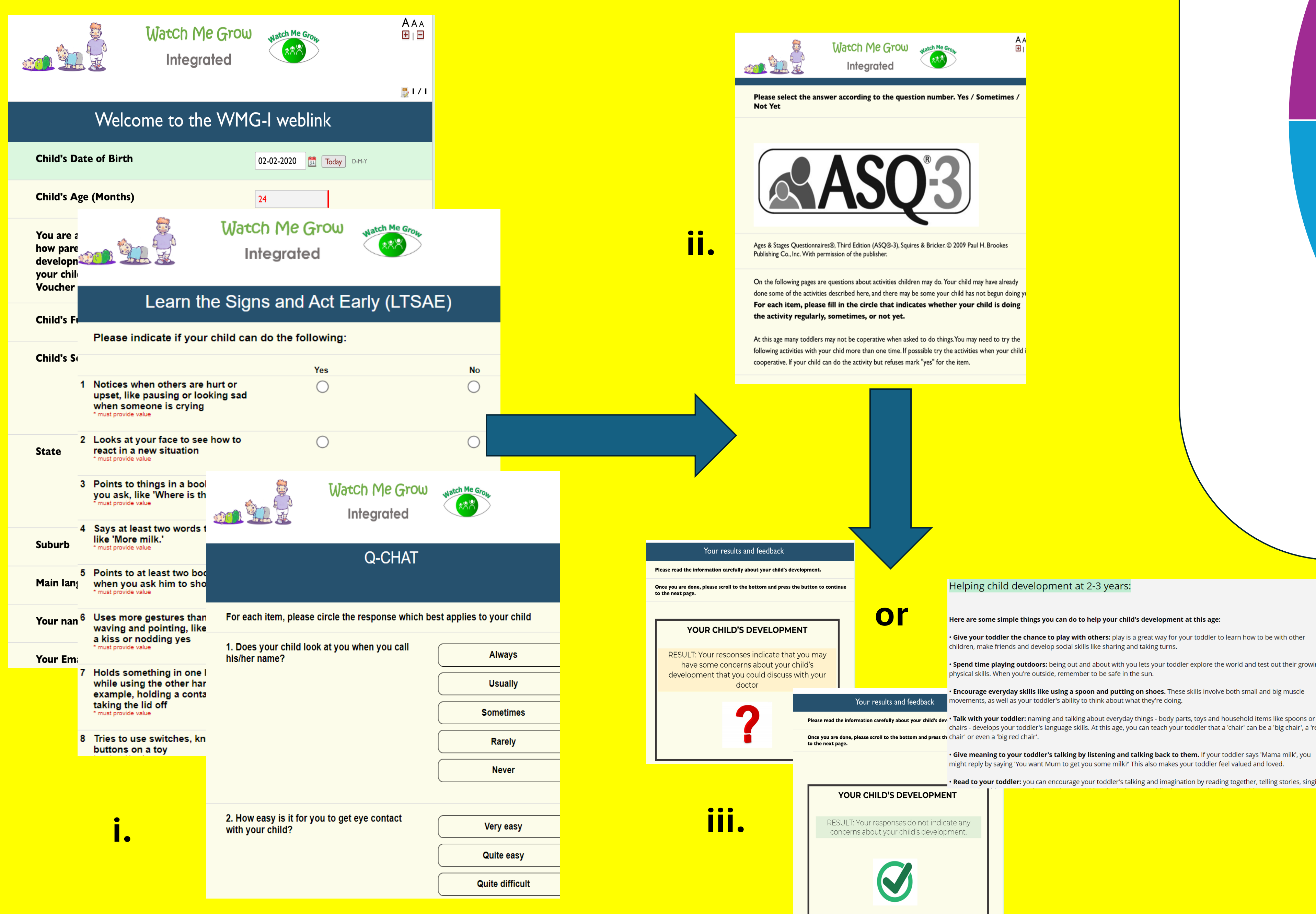
Method

Participants: Eleven parents were purposively sampled for semi-structured interviews from the larger sample of participants in a larger trial assessing child outcomes.

Procedure: Interviews were conducted in-person/online, audio-recorded, transcribed, de-identified, and coded using NVivo (V-14).

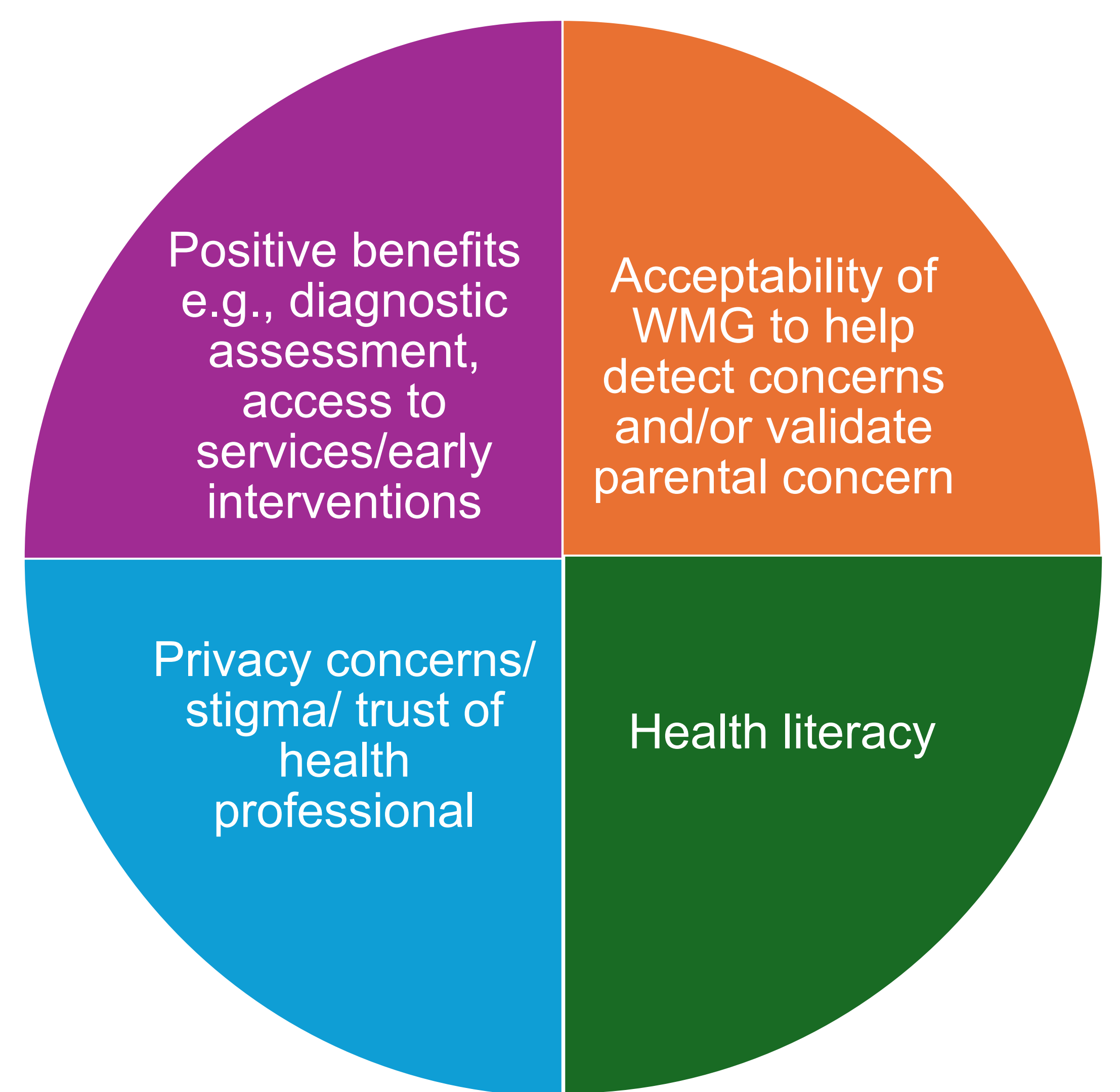
Analysis Plan: Data were analysed thematically.

Figure 1. Flow of the WMG web-tool from i) primary screen, ii) secondary screen (if applicable), and iii) automated anticipatory guidance and recommendations



Results

Our analysis identified four themes (illustrated below).



Discussion and Conclusion

Providing an online developmental screening tool, with automated results, appears to support engagement with developmental screens for toddlers.

References

- [1] AIHW, *Headline Indicators for Children's Health Dev & Wellbeing*, 2011: Canberra [2] Australian Early Development Census <https://www.aedc.gov.au> [3] Eapen, V., et al. BMC Pediatrics, 2014. 14(1): p. 234

Acknowledgements

With thanks to the study participants. This research is funded by NHMRC Partnership Project Grant APP1167374.