

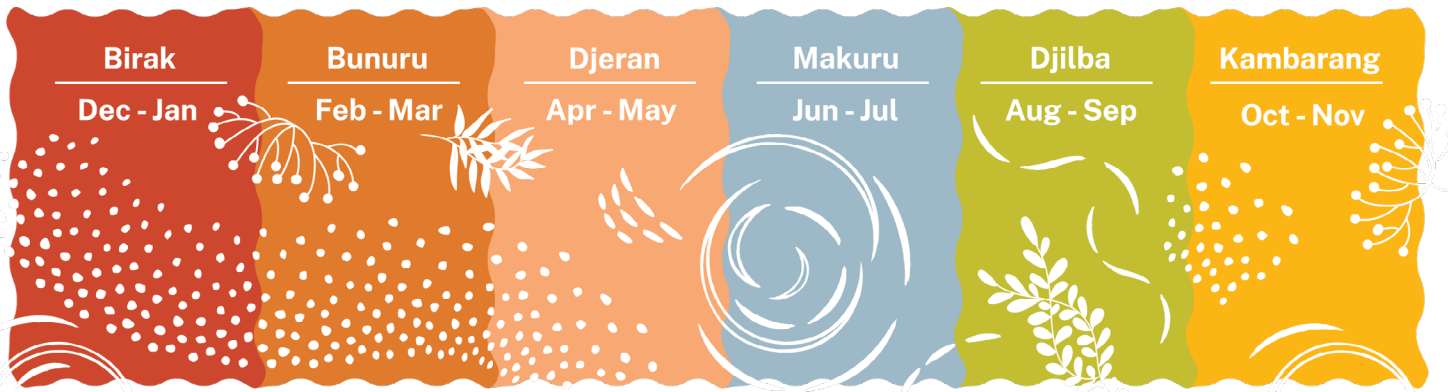
CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

Western Australia Partnership

Impact Report

2020 - 2023





Acknowledgment of **COUNTRY** —

Through the Children's University WA Partnership Edith Cowan University and The University of Western Australia acknowledge that their campuses are located on Noongar land, and that Noongar people remain the spiritual and cultural custodians of their land, and continue to practise their values, languages, beliefs and knowledge. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region.

Welcome to the Children's University WA Partnership



The young people of Western Australia are our greatest future asset. Unfortunately, not all children in WA have equal access to high-quality extra-curricular learning opportunities that we know can be transformative for their social, emotional and academic development. Equally, too many children experience barriers to accessing post-school learning pathways, including those that might best realise their skills, passions, and aspirations. Children's University helps open these doors for the benefit of children, their parents and carers, their schools, and the wider WA community.

The Children's University model is internationally recognised with demonstrated outcomes in building children's self-confidence, strengthening their educational engagement and academic attainment, and supporting family-led learning. These benefits are closely aligned with the strategic directions of the WA Department of Education, providing every student with a pathway to a successful future and partnering with families and communities to support educational engagement. The program also answers the call of the Australian Universities Accord, placing equity at the heart of education and preparing more children and WA communities for the demands of the future economy.

The Children's University WA Partnership with ECU, UWA and the Children's University Australasia & Africa is incredibly valuable. The partnership enables state-wide reach to more children, families, schools, and communities across WA. Since launching into COVID headwinds in 2020, it has celebrated over 1600 graduates who have completed over 124,106 hours of learning from across 40 schools in the Albany, Perth, Peel and South West regions – and more to come.

As both the Vice Chancellor of the Children's University WA Partnership and the former Western Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People, I believe the potential impact of this program is enormous. Facilitating educational opportunities is the best investment that any organisation can make. We look forward to working with you to achieve this, together.

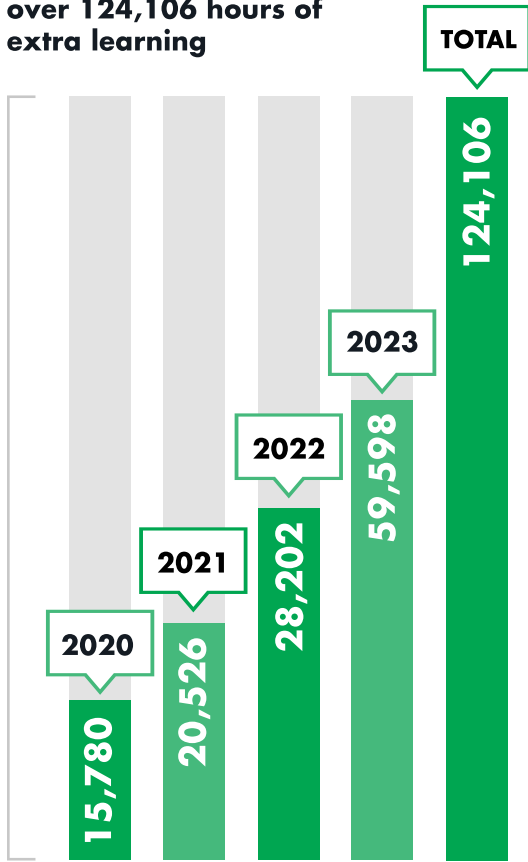
Colin Pettit

Colin Pettit
Vice Chancellor - Children's University WA Partnership

Our Reach and Engagement

Learning

Members have completed over 124,106 hours of extra learning

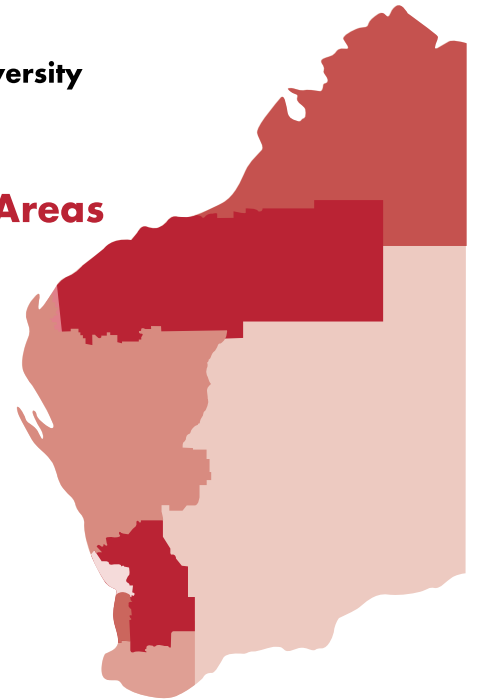


Partnerships

Delivering the Children's University program across

36 Local Government Areas

And with 99 WA Learning Destinations situated over 135 physical sites.



2,273

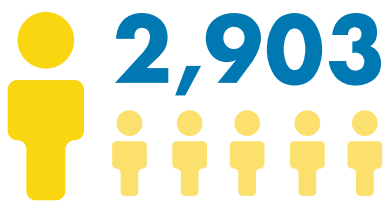
Family Engagements

Total number of family engagement at on-campus holiday programs since 2020

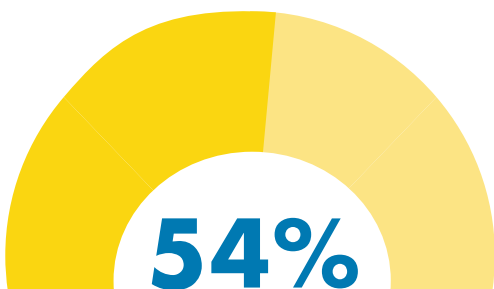


From across Perth, Peel, South West and Albany regions

Memberships



Total number of child memberships since 2020

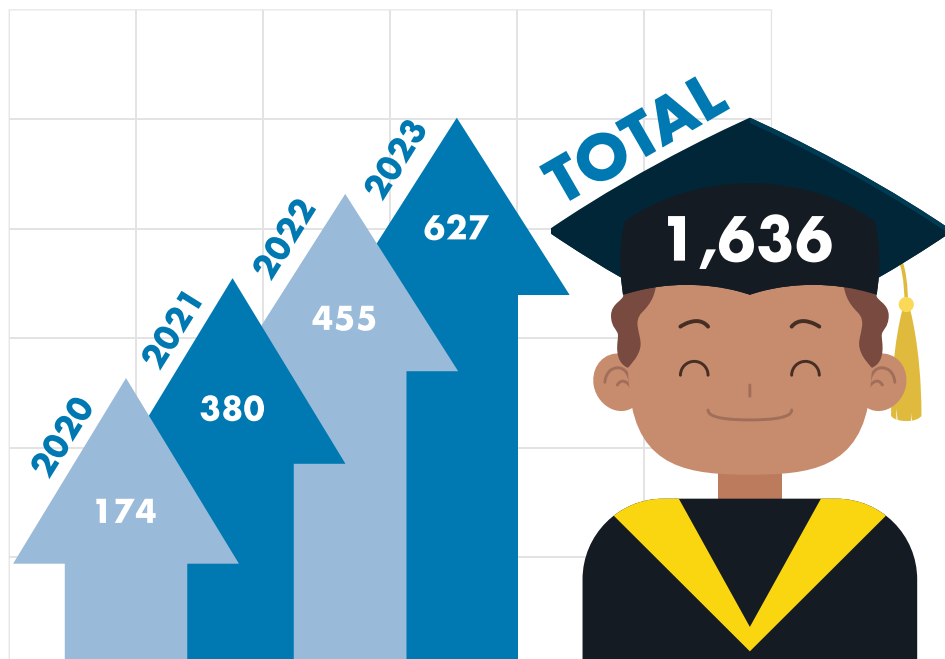


Total proportion of low SES or regional child memberships since 2020

24 Graduation Ceremonies

Hosted on ECU and UWA Campuses

Number of graduates:



Who we are

Children's University Australasia & Africa Indian Ocean (CUA) is an internationally recognised program that has inspired learning across hundreds of schools since 1993. It's an innovative program that engages children and young people in exciting learning opportunities beyond the classroom to increase their chances for educational achievement and rewards them for taking responsibility for their own learning. Our program began in the United Kingdom and is now available across the world in places like Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, Asia and Africa!

The CUA program has now signed up more than 59,000 annual memberships, engaging with more than 12,000 students during 2023 from over 370 schools across Australia, New Zealand and Mauritius. The program works with 913 cultural institutions and organisations such as zoos, museums, galleries, sports clubs, councils and libraries to offer extracurricular learning experiences. The program also offers each member access to over 1,000 free home-based learning activities through the online CUA portal.

The CUA program has since won multiple awards for its work as an educational charity both in Australia and in the UK. It has been recognised as a winner of the Australian Charity Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2021.



The Western Australian story so far

The program was first established in Western Australia by Edith Cowan University (ECU) in 2017 and since 2020 is now delivered by ECU and the University of Western Australia (UWA) through the Children's University Western Australia Partnership (CUWAP); the only joint CU university partnership of its kind in Australia. The CUWAP Program currently operates in the Perth, Peel, South West and Great Southern regions of WA.

Our Purpose

Vision

Learning beyond the classroom holds unlimited potential for exceptional skills development and social mobility. We engage children in learning that connects them to their community and broadens their horizons, creating limitless opportunities for every child.

Mission

- To inspire a love of learning for all children.
- To create wider communities of learning.
- To remove barriers to learning for all children.

Values

Passionate, collaborative, responsive, flexible, strategic, child centered and evidence-based.

Key outcomes for members and families

The Children's University program aims to support children and families:

- Foster their love for learning, self-confidence and motivation.
- Take agency of their own learning and make positive choices.
- Engage in family-led learning, sharing educational experiences together.
- Explore early aspirations for life-long learning, higher education and careers.
- Broaden their horizons through a multiplicity of rich learning experiences that may otherwise be out of reach.
- Feel pride in their learning achievements.



How the Program Works

The CU Learning Journey

The Program is delivered through CU Partner Schools. Students attending these schools can choose to join and become Children's University "members".

Step 1

Formation of Local Partnerships

Each school appoints a CU Coordinator, who supports students with their learning throughout the year and adapts the program to meet local needs and contexts.

Community Learning Destinations provide accessible learning experiences for local families.

CUWAP provides training, support, and facilitates partnership opportunities.



Step 3

Recording the Learning

A 'Passport to Learning' is used by the members to record the hours of learning completed as part of the program.

Time spent on each activity is validated with a stamp. As hours accrue members build towards achieving CU certificates ranging from a Bronze Award up to a Gold Masters Degree. The achievement of members is then celebrated at an annual graduation ceremony.



Step 2

The Learning

Is voluntary, extra-curricular and family-led

Learning occurs through:

Community organisations and school extra-curricular clubs

Learning Destination Partners

On-campus school holiday programs at ECU and UWA

CUWAP activity booklets & CUA online portal activities at home



Step 4

Graduation

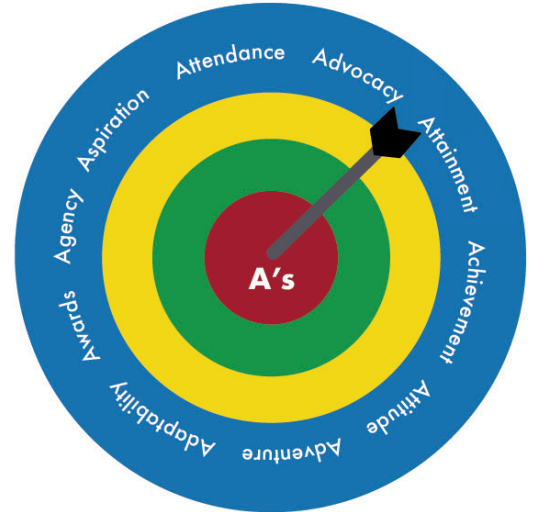
Graduation celebrations are hosted on campus at ECU and UWA, in which children, parents, school staff and the wider CU community come together to recognise children's learning achievements. Children receive formal certificates while dressed in regalia.

Graduations offer children and parents alike the proud and empowering experience of seeing themselves as future university graduates.



How CUWAP Program Benefits the Community

Evaluations of the Children's University model across Australia and the UK, as well as preliminary data from WA, indicate the success of the Children's University model in fostering a love of learning, supporting aspirations for lifelong learning, and building strong connections between children, parents, local communities and universities.



Key benefits include:

#1 Academic Attainment

Higher attainment including a positive correlation between the length of time children are involved in CU and their performance in reading and math.

"What we know, through our research, is that the more hours of informal learning that the children do in the program, the stronger the influence on improved reading and numeracy outcomes recorded in NAPLAN"

Dr Becky Shelley, Deputy Director, Peter Underwood Centre's Aspiration and Attainment



#2 Agency

Through family-led learning opportunities, children develop a sense of power, decision making and initiative, allowing them to take control of their own learning journey.

"Children's University has been a springboard for some of our students to discover passions and abilities in areas that may well have been left untapped"

School Pricipal Little Grove Primary School



#3&4 Achievement and Award

Broadening horizons through a range of learning leads to the reward of accomplishing personal goals and a sense of achievement.

"I am feeling very proud of my achievements this year and excited to see what fun activities I can do next year"

CU Graduate, Flinders Park Primary School



#5 Aspirations

Expressing increased aspirations for higher education and a greater awareness of pathways available to them. Compared to control groups, CU participants are also more likely to select professional careers as future aspirations.

"Aspiration is really why we got involved...It's just increased the breadth of their engagement. It's something extra special for my school community"

Principal, Groveland Primary School

Cr Paul Gillett, Shire of Harvey President

"This partnership with Children's University will put a spotlight on Shire of Harvey Libraries and ensure young people in the community have the support they need to study their dream degree and get their dream job"



#6 Attendance

Better school attendance as a consequence of participating in CU. This has been a common finding across CU partners, especially for schools that run extracurricular clubs through the program.

"I would like to thank my family and teachers for supporting and encouraging me throughout my learning journey - both in school and in the community. One of my favourite activities is the Robotic Growth Group at my school"

CU Graduate, Wanneroo Primary School



#7 Attitudes Towards Learning

More positive self-concept of who they are as learners, demonstrated in more positive learning behaviours at school. Teachers agree CU has a particular role to play in engaging children who have less enthusiasm for traditional learning. Parents indicated that children participating in the program enjoyed school more, with lower levels of school stress.

CU Graduate, Boddington District High School

"Through Children's University, I have learned that there are plenty of learning opportunities just waiting to be explored in everyday life. All you have to do is have an open mind and jump outside and start exploring."



#8 Adventure

Being more open and confident to trying new things and engaging in a variety of learning adventures that would not otherwise be experienced.

#9 Adaptability

Learning experiences and challenges build resilience and self-confidence. This is supported by improved communication skills, empathy, teamwork skills, and social responsibility.

CU Member, Swan View Primary School

"I joined the program because I thought it was a great opportunity to learn about a variety of things. Throughout the past two years I have learned about marine biology, engineering, poems, art and building Lego. I have visited many museums and art galleries"

"Through doing Children's University, I have learned to never give up, opt in and always do my best. I've also learned to stop giving up and putting myself down when I make mistakes. I have more self-belief and know if I try, I can do anything!"

CU Graduate Devin, Spencer Park Primary School



#10 Advocacy

CU establishes networks for partner organisations, jointly advocating for the importance of educational equity and widening participation in non-formal, community-based learning.

The program supports school-family-community partnerships, providing opportunities for shared learning experiences supporting academic socialisation towards children's development.

CU School Coordinator, Balga Primary School

"The program has also motivated parents and carers to become more involved with their children's learning and it has in many cases led to greater engagement from parents and discussions between the school"

Note: Parent Net Promoter Score – 88% (2023 post program parent survey)

Ruth Morris, Manager, Learning & Engagement
WA Museum Boola Bardip

"WA Museum Boola Bardip is super excited to join Children's University as a Learning Destination"

"The City of Armadale is proud to be involved with the Children's University Australasia (CUA) – a program supporting children with educational and socio-economic disadvantage to enhance their academic achievement and encourage students to aim high"

Ruth Butterfield, City of Armadale Mayor



Who we Support and Partner with (2023 Partner Schools)

Partner Schools	2023 ICSEA*	Local Government Area (LGA)	Regional
1 Alkimos Primary School	993	City of Wanneroo	
2 Australind Primary School	930	Shire of Harvey	Yes
3 Balga Primary school	909	City of Stirling	
4 Boddington District High School	968	Shire of Boddington	Yes
5 Burns Beach Primary School	1062	City of Joondalup	
6 Bungaree Primary School	925	City of Rockingham	
7 Camboon Primary School	1031	City of Stirling	
8 Craigie Heights Primary School	1025	City of Joondalup	
9 Currambine Primary School	1043	City of Joondalup	
10 East Wanneroo Primary School	974	City of Wanneroo	
11 Edgewater Primary School	1069	City of Joondalup	
12 Flinders Park Primary School	968	City of Albany	Yes
13 Great Southern Grammar	1086	City of Albany	Yes
14 Grovelands Primary School	891	City of Armadale	
15 Jarrahdale Primary School	983	Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	Yes
16 Little Grove Primary School	1028	City of Albany	Yes
17 Mary Davies Library (Home School Group)	N/A	City of Rockingham	
18 Midland Home School Group	N/A	City of Swan	
19 Morley Primary School	1011	City of Stirling	
20 Mundijong Primary School	952	Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	
21 North Harrisdale Primary School	1064	City of Armadale	
22 North Metro Home School Group	N/A	City of Joondalup	
23 Peter Moyes Anglican Community School	1082	City of Joondalup	
24 Quinns Beach Primary School	972	City of Wanneroo	
25 Redcliffe Primary School	983	City of Belmont	
26 Roseworth Primary School	918	City of Stirling	
27 Serpentine Primary School	987	Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	Yes
28 Spencer Park Primary School	910	City of Albany	Yes
29 St Bernadette's Primary School Port Kennedy	1022	City of Rockingham	
30 St Joseph's Primary School Pinjarra	977	Shire of Murray	
31 St Joseph's Primary School Waroona	969	Shire of Waroona	Yes
32 St Stephens School	1127	City of Wanneroo	
33 Swan View Primary School	884	City of Swan	
34 Tuart Rise Primary School	975	City of Rockingham	
35 Wanneroo Primary School	989	City of Wanneroo	
36 West Byford Primary School	994	Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	

Learning Destinations

Our Community Partners

Learning Destinations (LD's) are places, clubs, and organisations that provide high quality learning opportunities to CU members. Learning Destinations may include: public libraries, zoos, museums, galleries, observatories, universities, government organisations, education providers, local businesses, sporting clubs, and parks etc. All organisations seeking to become Learning Destinations must undertake our quality assurance process, known as Planning for Learning, to ensure consistency in the quality of learning activities. LD's are encouraged to provide both physical and virtual activities for Children's University members.

CUWAP is now affiliated with **99 Western Australian LDs** covering over 135 physical sites within 36 Local Government Areas across Western Australia.



Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre



WA Museum Boola Bardip



Scitech

Libraries

Albany Public Library
 Bunbury Public Libraries
 City of Armadale Libraries
 City of Bayswater Libraries
 City of Bunbury Library
 City of Perth Library

City of Joondalup Libraries
 City of Melville Libraries
 City of Swan Libraries
 City of Stirling Libraries & Hubs
 City of Wanneroo Libraries
 Mount Barker Public Library

Shire of Boddington
 Shire of Harvey Libraries
 Shire of Serpentine - Jarrahdale
 Shire of Waroona
 State Library of WA
 and more...

Museums

Albany's Historic Whaling Station
 Army Museum of WA
 Bert Tyler Vintage Machinery Museum
 Bunbury Museum Heritage Centre
 Carnarvon Space & Technology Museum
 City of Armadale Museums

City of Wanneroo - Heritage Houses & Museum
 Edward de Courcy Clarke
 Earth Sciences Museum
 Fremantle Prison
 Motor Museum of WA

Museum of Great Southern
 National ANZAC Centre
 Scitech
 WA Maritime Museum
 WA Museum (Boola Bardip)
 WA Shipwrecks Museum

Galleries

Art Gallery of WA (AGWA)
 Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG)
 Busselton Jetty Observatory
 Contemporary Art Spaces - Mandurah
 Gravity Discovery Centre and Observatory
 Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery
 Perth Observatory

Community Businesses & Education Providers

Australian Earth Science Education (AusEarthEd)
 Bunnings DIY Workshops
 Down South Arts & Crafts Collectives
 Edith Cowan University
 Gold Industry Group
 St John Ambulance WA
 The University of Western Australia

Zoos, Parks & Environmental Organisations

Aquarium of WA (AQWA)
 Baldivis Children's Forrest
 Bibbulmun Track Foundation
 Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre
 Educated by Nature
 Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park
 Forrest Discovery Centre - Dwellingup
 Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation


Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre
 Nature Play Passports
 Perth Zoo
 Ranger Red's Zoo & Conservation Park
 Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk
 Wave Energy Research Centre (WERC)
 Whiteman Park
 and more...

How we can work together to support the CU program in Western Australia



Your sponsorship is a powerful tool for the success of the Children's University program. Sponsorship will allow the delivery of CUWAP across new regional or remote areas in WA helping to build strong, sustainable communities and offer additional educational opportunities to children across Western Australia. Your support will enable more WA children to succeed.

We welcome a discussion of the range of sponsorship options available, including expanding Children's University to new communities, supporting bus transport to on-campus events, and expanding access to outstanding community-based learning experiences.

Sponsorship packages can be tailored to best suit your organisation. Here are some ways you can sponsor the Children's University:

-  **Expand CU into a new region**
-  **Offer university experiences to children and families**
-  **Low SES school sponsorship to participate in the program**
-  **Graduation ceremony for children and families**
-  **Help families access outstanding community-based learning experiences through local Learning Destinations**

How supporting us could benefit you

 <p>Recognition for the contribution towards improving educational equity and supporting the empowerment of young people among regional or disadvantaged areas of WA.</p>	 <p>Opportunities to foster collaborative responsibility for the development of WA communities leading to increased civic engagement and educational outcomes.</p>	 <p>Opportunities for your organisation to expand its visibility, range and breadth of community engagement activities within your local areas or to access new communities.</p>	 <p>Promotion of your organisation across local, national and international Children's University networks.</p>	 <p>Opportunities to join a network of university partners including ECU and UWA.</p>
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Acknowledgement

We sincerely wish to thank our sponsors for their generosity towards supporting the Children's University WA Partnership program.

ECU: The Australian Government Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) and the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) South West.

UWA: Rio Tinto, Peel Development Commission, Water Corporation.

How to get involved

For more information, please scan or select the QR codes below



**CU at Edith Cowan
University**

**CU at the University
of Western Australia**



**Children's University
in WA - Video**



**Children's University
WA Partnership
- Video**



Be part of it!



Contact us via:
childrensuniversity@ecu.edu.au
childrensuniversity@uwa.edu.au