



Institute for Social Science Research

# LEARNING THROUGH COVID-19:

Maximising educational outcomes for Australia's children and young people experiencing disadvantage

## THE NEED

In Australia, many students shifted to remote schooling for parts of Term 1 and 2 (and Term 3 in Victoria) in response to COVID-19.

The impact of COVID-19 has not only disrupted schooling but it has also significantly affected families' health and socio-economic circumstances. Children and young people already experiencing disadvantaged circumstances will potentially be more at risk of poorer educational outcomes as a result of COVID-19.

## THE AIM

The Institute for Social Science (ISSR) is undertaking a study, funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation, that aims to understand the experience and needs of children and young people already at risk for poorer wellbeing outcomes, educational outcomes and future employment prospects and provide an evidence-based platform to respond to these students needs' in the recovery from COVID-19.

## THE APPROACH

COVID-19 is not a single static event, and there are many potential stages of impact – some that have already occurred, some that are emerging, and others that we need to anticipate. Combining evidence from the literature, policy and practice reviews, and listening to key stakeholders and children,

young people, and their families, this project will:

- Capture the experience, practice, and learnings from across the sector (from government to individuals) with respect to learning through COVID-19.
- Identify the geographic distribution, intensity and diversity of the needs of children and young people already experiencing disadvantaged circumstances.
- Identify what currently works and what other evidence-based actions (policy, practice and programs) are needed to enable schools, government, and service providers to continue to understand, respond, adapt, and support the learning needs of children and young people.

## THE INTENT

The project will engage and consult with Government representatives, the education sector and key peak bodies, providers of support services to disadvantaged families and children and young people, and philanthropy stakeholders with an interest in improving educational outcomes and reducing disadvantage.

The lessons learned and solutions identified in this study are anticipated to have wider reach beyond the impact of COVID-19, which will continue to maximise educational outcomes for Australia's children and young people and ensure that Australia's next generation continue to thrive.



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

## THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

ISSR undertakes transformational, solution-focused research to address new and emerging challenges facing Australian society.

The Institute is an international leader in advanced interdisciplinary and evidence-based social science research, and works collaboratively with government and the private and not-for-profit sectors on pressing social science challenges across four key impact areas:

- Social Science of Policy and Practice
- Social Science of Health
- Social Science of Education
- Social Science of Innovation and Technology.



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