

Children surviving major trauma: Restrictions in activities and participation 3 years post-injury

Sandra Braaf, Shanthi Ameratunga, Warwick Teague,
Helen Jowett, Belinda Gabbe (PI)

Funded by NHMRC, Transport Accident Commission, State
Government of Victoria



Rationale

- Worldwide shortage of population data to inform understanding of non-fatal burden
- Non-fatal injury outcomes are multi-dimensional with impacts on the individual, their family and society
- Need data collected over an extended timeframe post-injury
- Few studies have collected data at multiple time points post-injury and many cease follow-up at 12 months
- Available data not sufficient to describe who recovers, how quickly they recover, whether treatment needs are met, and how needs change over time

RESTORE

(Recovery after Serious Trauma: Outcomes, Resource Use and Patient Experiences)



UK

Ronan Lyons, Swansea University, UK

Nicola Christie, UCL



Australia

Belinda Gabbe, Sandra Braaf, Pam Simpson, Alex Collie,
Jennie Ponsford & Peter Cameron, Monash University

James Harrison, Flinders University

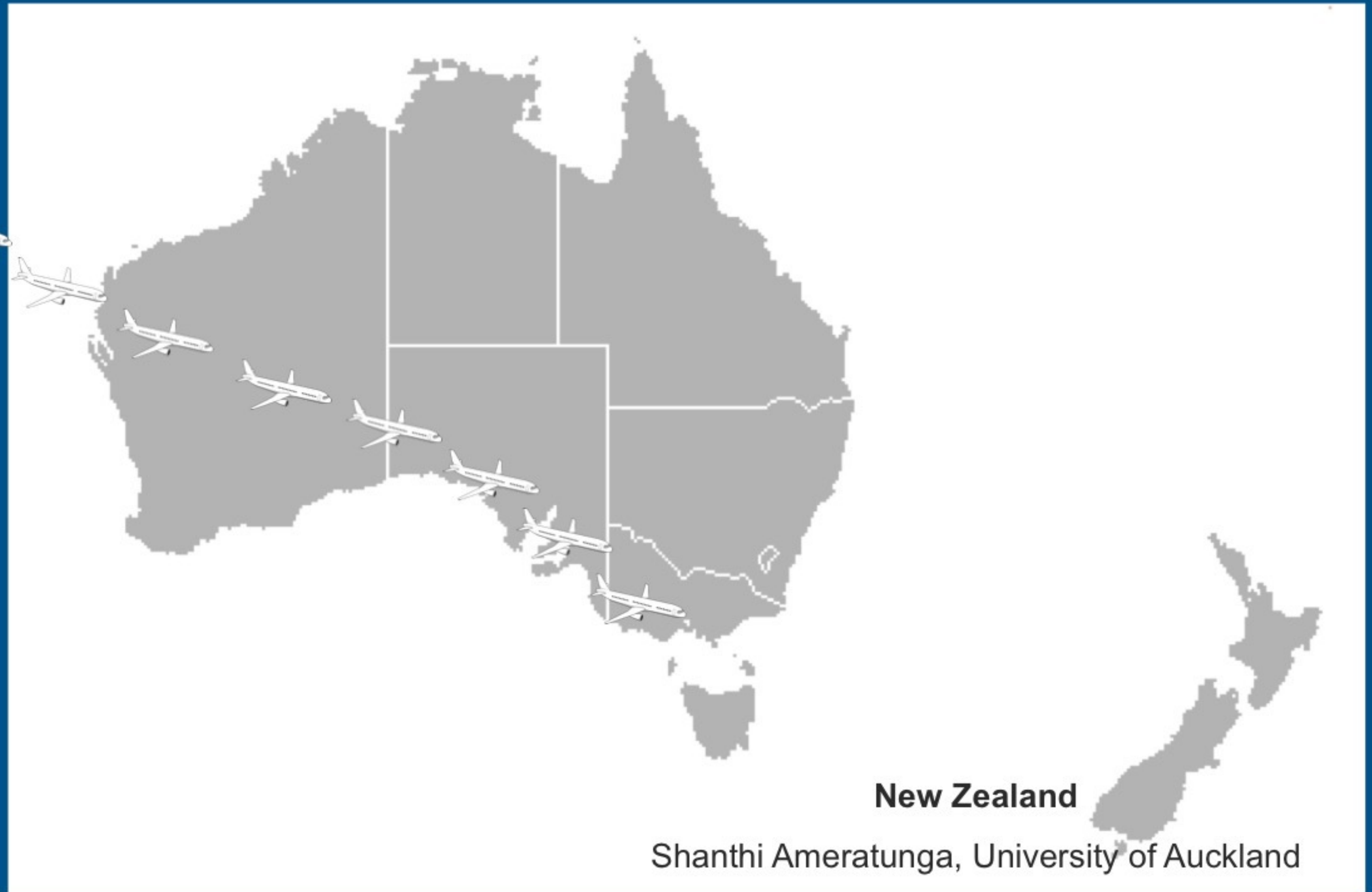
Helen Jowett, RCH

Mark Fitzgerald, The Alfred

Rodney Judson, RMH

David Attwood, TAC

Andrew Nunn, Victorian Spinal Cord Service



New Zealand

Shanthi Ameratunga, University of Auckland

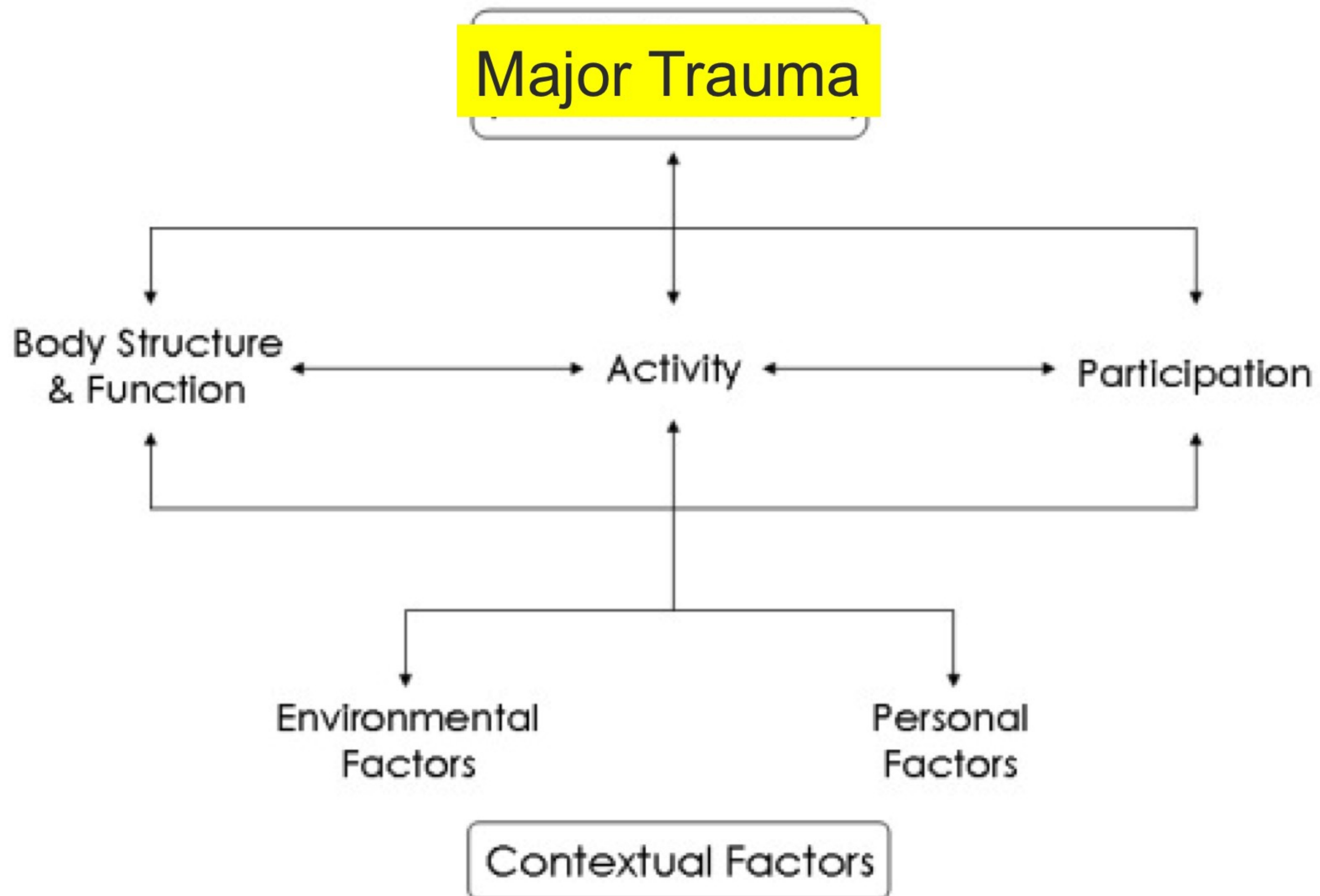
Aims and Study design

- Aims: Explore restrictions in activities and social participation experienced by children 3 years following major trauma, as reported by their caregivers
- Study base: Victorian Statewide Trauma Registry (population-based registry of all major trauma (ISS>12, ICU for >24 hours involving ventilation, urgent surgery)
 - 178 paediatric major trauma patients with a date of injury from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012
- Study focus: 44 injured children who survived to 3 years post-injury (most treated at state's major trauma service)
- In-depth qualitative (semi-structured) interviews of caregivers (most were parents)

Results

- Nearly all had experienced some restriction in activities in and outside the home, with many having on-going problems
- Many reported limitations in activities which had wide-ranging impacts on social participation, perceived quality of life, and independence
- Experiences appeared to intersect with developmental stages, especially dependence on caregivers (pre-schoolers), school environment and social world (school-aged), and conflict and tensions with increasing independence (adolescence)
- Important interactions with physical and social environments – in terms of (missed) opportunities to play, learn, develop sense of competence and social networks – and varying manifestations of distress (behavioural in early years; depression/social withdrawal in later years)
- Significant sources of resilience and resourcefulness

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)



Implications for Practice and Research

- Need for collaborative models of care across the trauma continuum, including post-discharge and longer term support
 - Children/young people, caregivers, teachers / schools, primary care / other health professionals
- Information and resources which are accessible that transcend issues of literacy, socio-economic/insurance status, and other sources of inequities (e.g., access to health care)
- Greater attention to environmental barriers and facilitators (physical, social and health services)
- Need to better understand perspectives of young people themselves as they negotiate transitions of many types
- Develop and implement models of care that transcend current silos of service delivery – and evaluations that assess effectiveness

Acknowledgements

- Participants and funders
- Project team led by Prof Belinda Gabbe
- Publication (open access): Braaf, Ameratunga, et al. Caregiver Reports of Children's Activity Participation Following Serious Injury. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 2016; 13: 652



International Journal of
*Environmental Research
and Public Health*



Article

Caregiver Reports of Children's Activity Participation Following Serious Injury

Sandra Braaf ^{1,*}, Shanthi Ameratunga ², Warwick Teague ^{3,4,5}, Helen Jowett ³
and Belinda Gabbe ^{1,6}

- Contact: Shanthi Ameratunga s.ameratunga@auckland.ac.nz