




**Australia's children**


**Australia's young people**

**SOME FACTS...**



Most Australian children and  
young people experience  
reasonable levels of health  
and wellbeing.

However...



# emotional and behavioural problems

(4 -12 year olds)

15% of boys

14% of girls



# attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder

(4 -12 year olds)

19% of boys

9% of girls




overweight or obese


18% of boys

22% of girls

(doubled in a decade)



In 2000-01 there were around 43,500 hospitalisations of young people with mental and behavioural disorders.




Of these, 6264 young people  
aged 12-24 were hospitalised  
for depression.



consume alcohol\*  
(12-14 year olds)

26% of boys  
21% of girls

\* in week prior to survey



drink at levels that risk harm  
in the short term

35% of 14-17 year olds

64% of 18-24 year olds



smoke tobacco\*

6% of 12-year-olds

13% of 13-year-olds

22% of 14-year-olds


\* in week prior to survey



take illicit drugs\*  
(12-15 year olds)

29% of boys  
22% of girls

\* in week prior to survey



infected with sexually  
transmitted diseases  
(young people)

chlamydia: 11,859

gonorrhoea: 2,213

syphilis: 382



deaths by injury or poisoning  
(12-24 year olds)

80% are males  
20% are females

30% of these deaths are suicides



# children living in poor families

- more common behavioural disorders & psychiatric problems
- higher injury rates
- more frequent hospitalisation
- more frequent obesity
- worse dental health



# Indigenous young people

A minimum of 20% of all  
Aboriginal children in the Top  
End of the Northern Territory  
are malnourished.




Indigenous young people  
(12-24 year olds)

are 2.6 times more likely  
(than non-Indigenous young people)  
to suffer diseases of the ear ...



# Indigenous young people (12-24 year olds)

27 times more likely to die  
from assault by a sharp object ...



Indigenous young people  
(12-24 year olds)

4 times more likely to die from  
intentional self harm.



optimism for the future?



“In the future our world will be better for most people.”

*Disagree or Strongly Disagree:*

10% of Year 5

29% of Year 10




“In the future we will look after  
the environment better.”

*Disagree or Strongly Disagree:*

10% of Year 5

27% of Year 10




“In the future there will be less  
conflict and war.”

*Disagree or Strongly Disagree:*

20% of Year 5

41% of Year 10


values?



“I would rather do my own work  
poorly than cheat and do well”

*Disagree or Strongly Disagree:*  
26% of secondary students\*

\* not a national sample



“ If I found a wallet with money  
but no identification, I would  
take it to the police ”

*Disagree or Strongly Disagree:*  
41% of secondary students\*

\* not a national sample



“I watch for opportunities to help  
other people”

*Disagree or Strongly Disagree:*  
44% of secondary students\*

\* not a national sample

## sources

*Australia's Children 2002\**

*Australia's Young People 2003\**

*Schools and the Social Development  
of Young Australians 1998#*


\* Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

# Australian Council for Educational Research

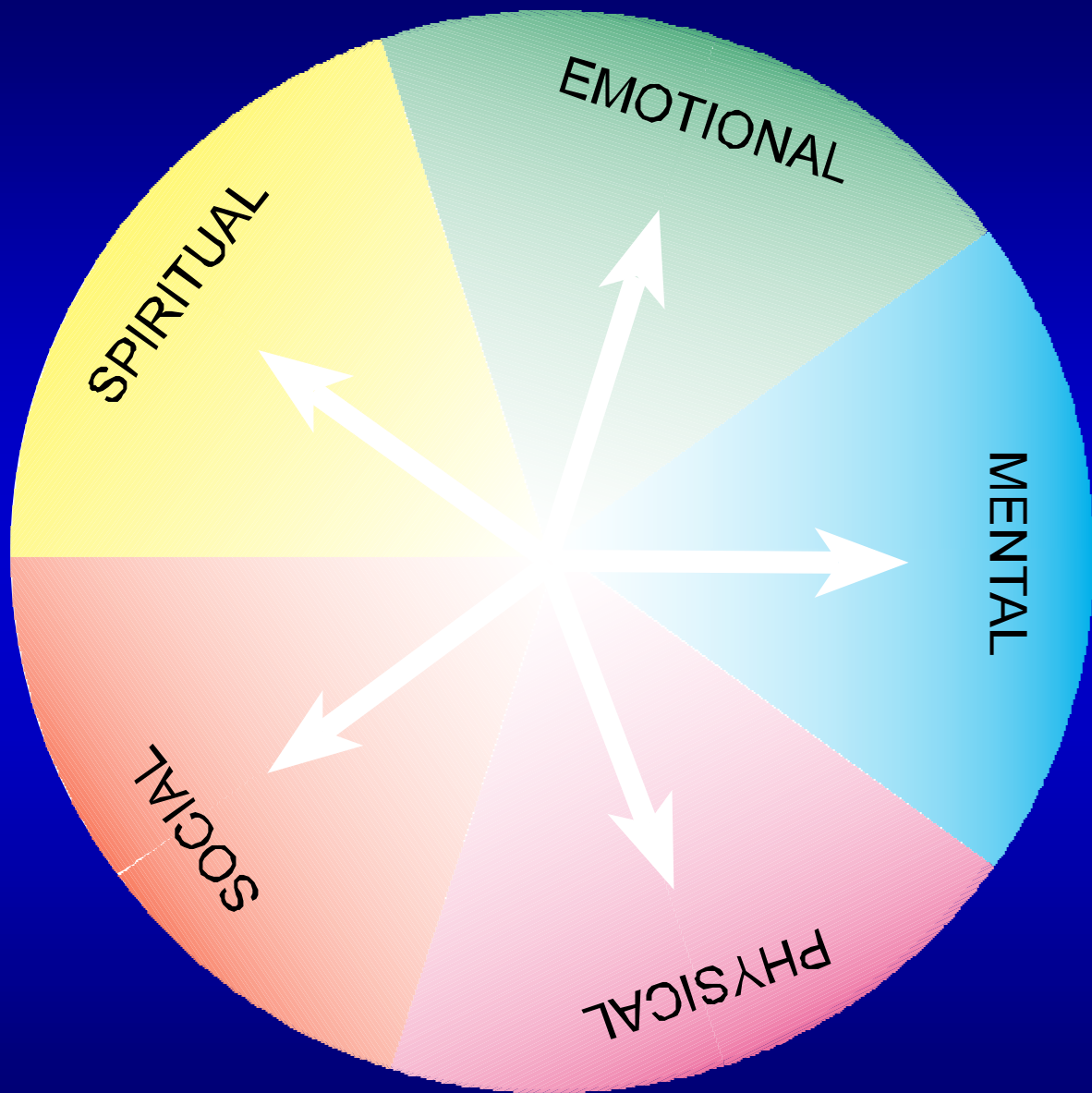



# There are multiple aspects to young people's wellbeing

- physical
- mental
- emotional
- social
- spiritual

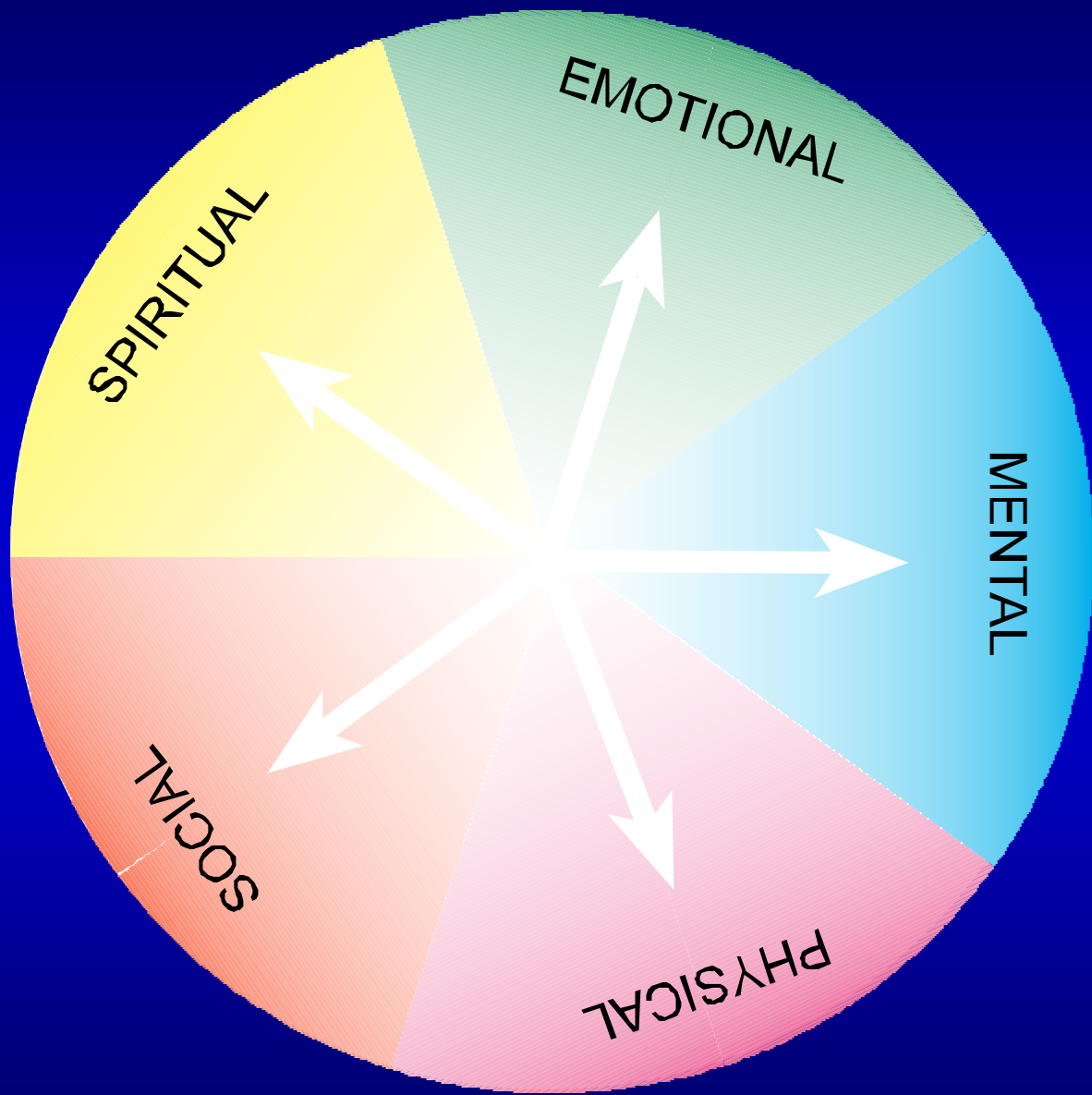


these aspects of wellbeing  
work together as part of a  
balanced whole





a well-rounded, healthy  
individual will be making  
progress on all these fronts



# research

- clarifying levels of wellbeing
- investigating conditions influencing wellbeing
- exploring ways of increasing levels of wellbeing



enjoy the conference!