



MELODY  
SMITH



Friday 19 March,  
9:30am – 10:00am

Aspirations for neighbourhoods where children can be independently mobile, where people can get around safely by walking and cycling, and where social and physical well-being is prioritised and facilitated are key drivers of my research. I lead the

Neighbourhoods for Active Kids Study, using participatory geographic information systems, accelerometry, and parent and teacher surveys to understand environmental supports for health-promoting behaviours in children. Other research includes the Pacific Islands Families study, Te Ara Mua – Future Streets, Kids in the City, Enabling Participation for Youth Living with Disability, Healthy Future Mobility Solutions, and the Youth 2000 Surveys. I am Associate Professor, Co-Associate Head (Research) and Sir Charles Hercus Research Fellow in the School of Nursing, at the University of Auckland. My research can be found at [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Melody\\_Oliver](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Melody_Oliver)

## Walking and cycling in children and youth: Everybody's business

In this presentation Melody will share insights from research in Aotearoa New Zealand that explores factors of importance for supporting active travel modes and mobility in children and youth. Findings from a range of studies including the Neighbourhoods for Active Kids study, Te Ara Mua Future Streets, Healthy Future Mobility Solutions, and Enabling Participation for Disabled Children and Young People will be shared. These studies have used a range of methods including participatory geographic information systems surveys, household surveys, home-based and go-along neighbourhood interviews, and objective measurement of neighbourhood and transport environments. An ecological systems lens will be used to highlight the diverse spectrum of factors that are important for supporting child and youth mobility and active travel, including the roles that all individuals play.