

Integrating Health Care Planning for Health and Prosperity in North Queensland

Project Update

March 2022

Project Summary

The Integrating Health Care Planning for Health and Prosperity in North Queensland Project commenced on 15th April 2021, and will conclude on the 14th April 2024. JCU has received funding for the project from the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia Ltd (CRCNA), with a financial contribution from the Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre (TAAHC), and in-kind contributions from project partners. It aims to improve the responsiveness of health services to the health needs of communities in the Northern Queensland region.

Current Activities

The *Northern Queensland Health Atlas* developed by the JCU research team is now available for project partners and stakeholders to provide feedback. The Atlas (collection of maps) is an online interactive platform visually displaying health data, services available and workforce information. Some examples of mapped data are included with this document. To explore the draft *Northern Queensland Health Atlas* go to: <https://arcg.is/5a4Xq>

The draft *Gap analysis of health needs and services in the northern Queensland region* is also now available for comment (attached). The gap analysis facilitates a broad understanding of unmet health need in the project region. It takes a pragmatic approach drawing on key principles of health care equity to develop a composite Index of Unmet Need. The overall composite Index of Unmet Need highlights areas of greater unmet need.

These resources will be used to guide consultation with stakeholder groups and assist in prioritising communities, and will be considered in co-selection of four communities across the region to engage in place-based planning processes to improve health service efficiencies in the second phase of the project.

Selection of communities for place-based planning will consider:

1. identified imbalance between need and services;

2. whether there is interest among the local stakeholders in participating in place-based planning at the current time; and
3. coverage of a range of different community types and regions for maximal learning.

The team looks forward to your feedback and recommendations.

Challenges in the project to date

In addition to the previous challenges noted (different geographical units in data availability; and the potential impact Covid 19), a new issue has been recently identified. There is a mismatch between publicly available workforce data and the research teams' knowledge of local community workforce numbers, especially for some smaller communities. The team are currently exploring this data further and any impact on the accuracy of analysis that is able to be undertaken.

Future Activities

Following feedback from project partners and stakeholders, the map will be revised and finalised. It will then be available as a public resource. The gap analysis will also be reviewed considering feedback.

Following identification of four communities as participants in place-based planning in phase 2, further consultation with key stakeholders in those communities will be undertaken in April/May 2022. Phase 2 is scheduled to commence in June/July 2022.

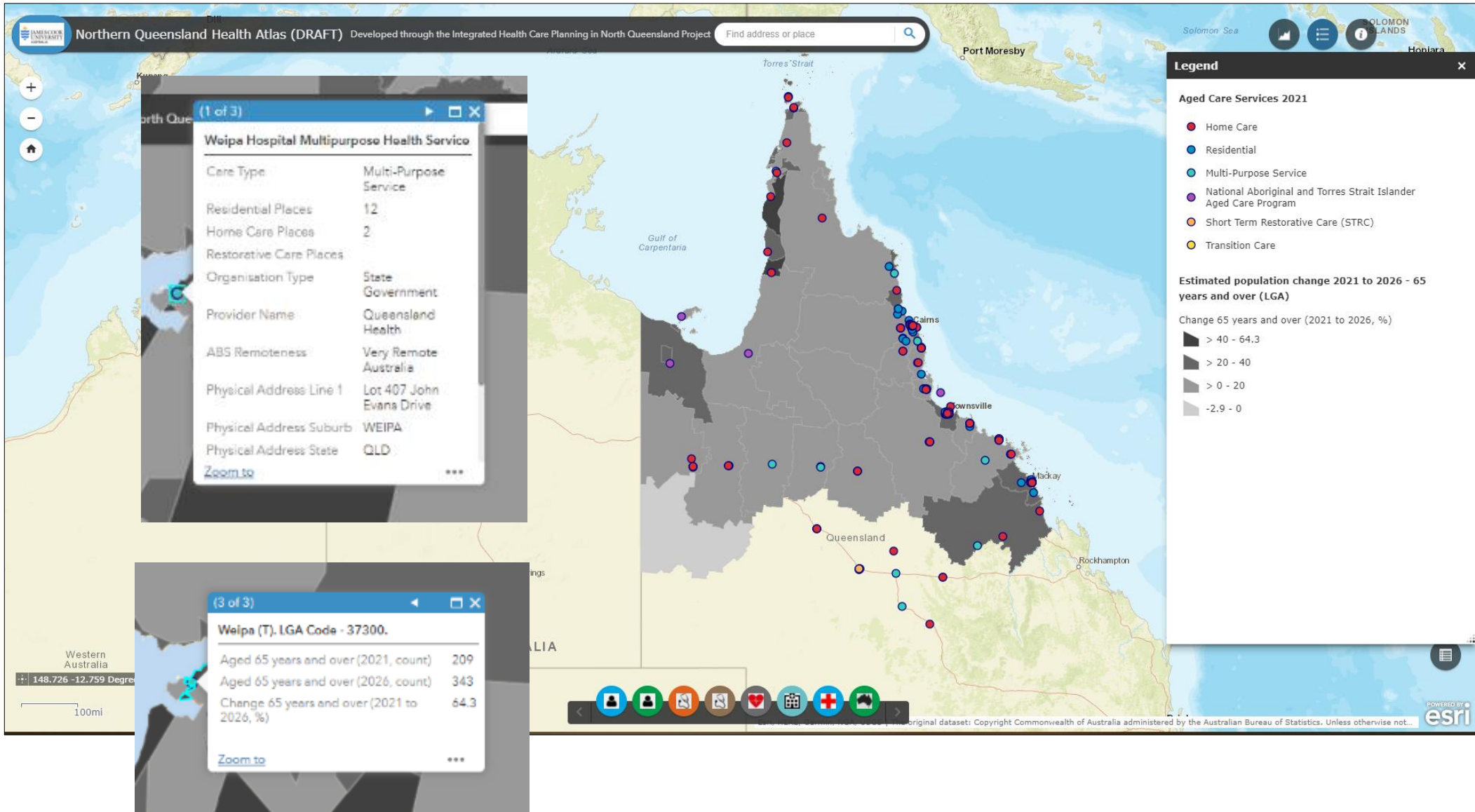
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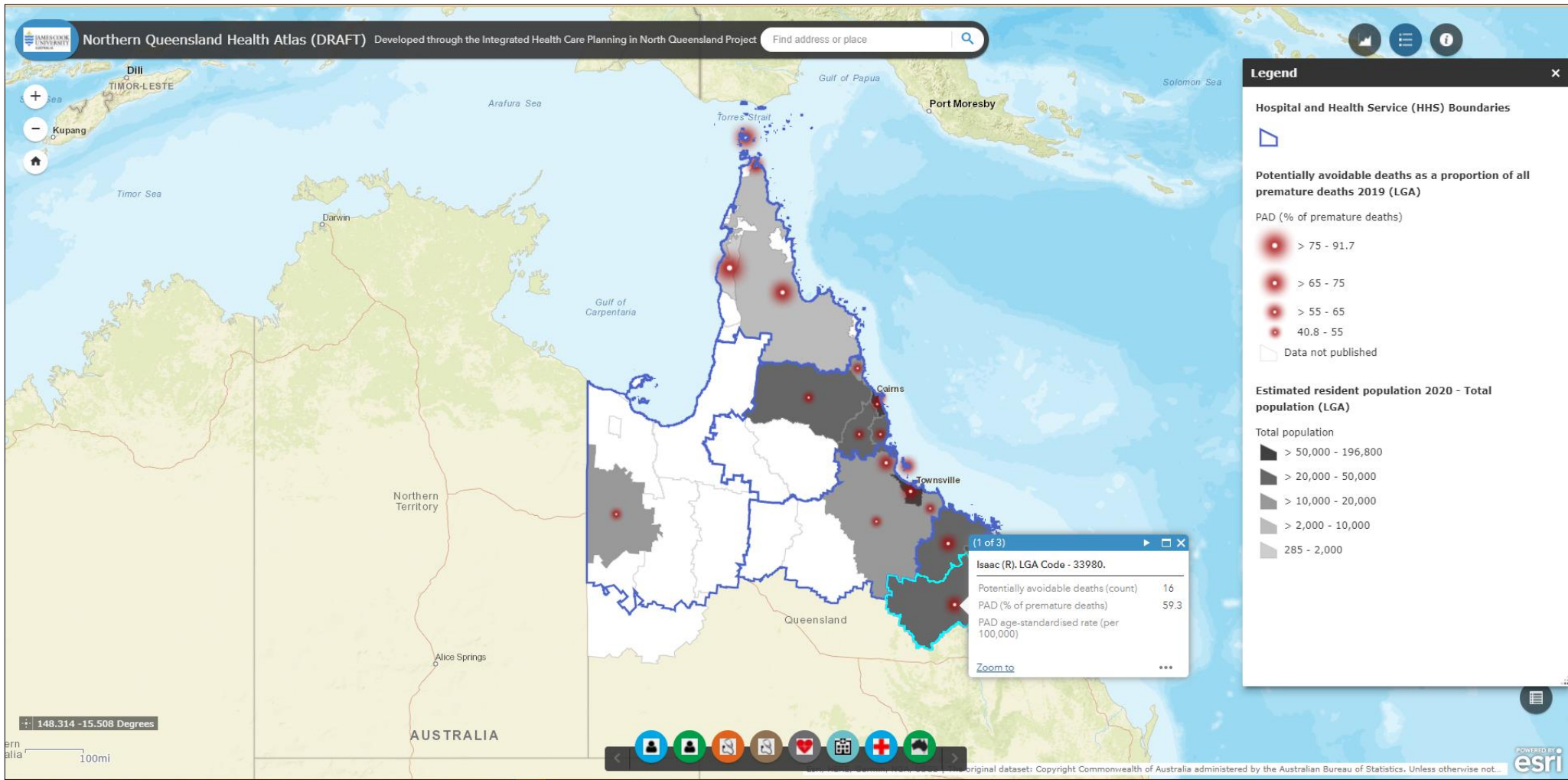
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Mapping example 1: Estimated population change 2021-2026 for 65 years and over (LGA) overlayed with data on Aged Care Services 2021 (with a focus on Weipa LGA).



Mapping example 2: Estimated total population (LGA) overlayed with data on potentially avoidable deaths as a proportion of all premature deaths 2019 (LGA).



Mapping example 3: Total estimated population 2020 (LGA) overlayed with data on prevalence of overweight and obesity 2019-2020 (LGA) and GP Practices.

