

## Regional Public Health Planning: Using Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data

By supporting early childhood development and wellbeing, we are contributing to the wellbeing and prosperity of citizens and communities.

### Children do better when families:

- ✓ engage with quality early learning programs and experiences
- ✓ provide responsive and positive caregiving
- ✓ provide security and safety
- ✓ provide quality nutrition and healthy routines
- ✓ connect with other families in their community
- ✓ access services when needed

### What can help families?

- ✓ community and government collaboration
- ✓ healthy environments and access to transport
- ✓ connected and integrated services
- ✓ accessible information about services
- ✓ appropriate service locations, operational hours, type and costs
- ✓ communities supporting social connection
- ✓ employment and income
- ✓ affordable safe housing

The [State Public Health Plan 2019-2024](#) establishes a new and aspirational vision for healthy, liveable and connected communities for all South Australians.

The [South Australian Public Health Indicator Framework](#) identifies the AEDC as a data source to measure early childhood development in domain PROMOTE: Promoting Healthier Neighbourhoods and Stronger Communities.

Local councils in South Australia are required to maintain and report on a [Regional Public Health Plan](#) that is consistent with the State Public Health Plan.

The Local Government Association of South Australia [Guide to Public Health Planning](#) outlines the social determinants of health referencing the AEDC as a data source for the Environmental dimension-Social.

## Use AEDC results in your Regional Public Health Plan

- as an early indicator of population health and wellbeing of younger citizens
- as an evidence base to guide action
- in effective reporting and review systems
- for accountability, to track and monitor changes in early child development over time
- to understand your community context and factors that may be impacting children and their families' health and wellbeing in the early years
- to inform asset management, partnerships, resource allocation, service provision and infrastructure management
- to monitor improvements and know where to focus efforts and forward directions to best support positive early childhood experiences for your youngest citizens
- to ensure families are connected, informed and well supported.

## What the AEDC is

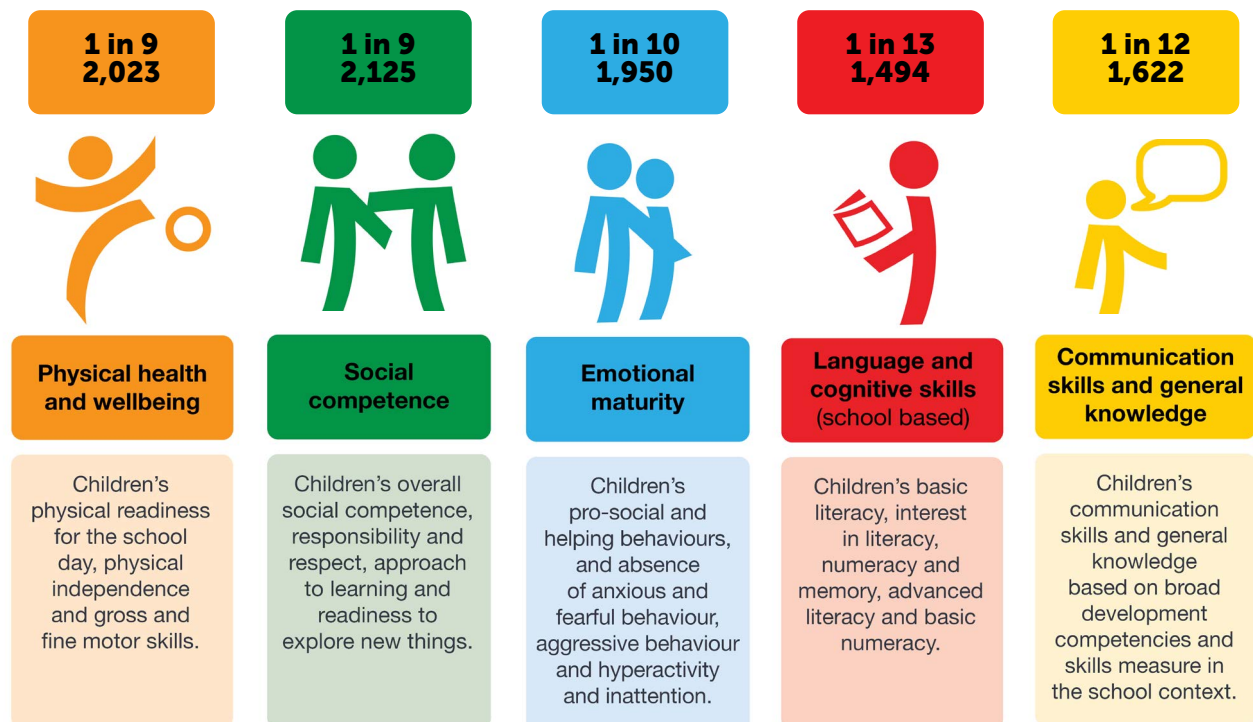
- The [AEDC](#) is a national census examining how young Australian children have developed by the time they start their first year of full-time school. The AEDC measures five important areas of early childhood development called domains.

## Vulnerability on 1 or more [AEDC domains](#) can affect lifelong education, health, and wellbeing outcomes

### In 2021:

- **53.7%** of SA children were developmentally on track on all 5 domains
- **23.8%** were developmentally vulnerable on 1 or more domains
- **12.7%** were developmentally vulnerable on 2 or more domains

## Number of SA children developmentally vulnerable by domain in 2021



### When developing and reviewing your Regional Public Health Plan


- access your AEDC community data via the [AEDC Data explorer](#), review alongside other data sources to get a full picture of your community
- document what you know, engage community stakeholders, form partnerships
- identify gaps, risks and opportunities
- keep early childhood development central in your planning
- monitor progress in future AEDC collection results.

Research shows that investing time, effort and resources in the early years of a child's life has a significant impact on their later behaviour, learning, health and wellbeing. Importantly, the early years set the foundation for their adult lives.

## Aligning the AEDC with your Regional Public Health Plan

### PROMOTE domain: Promoting Healthier Neighbourhoods and Stronger Communities

**Indicator group:** Social/Economic Environment | **Indicator:** Early childhood development

<b>AEDC domain data can inform your planning for these action areas</b>	<b>AEDC domains</b>				
<b>Action areas</b>	 Physical	 Social	 Emotional	 Language	 Communication
Plans, policies and guidelines that support the creation of healthier communities and sustainable environments for all ages and abilities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities for social connection, volunteering and community participation to enhance mental wellbeing and healthy ageing.	✓	✓	✓		
Capacity building of individuals, families, carers and communities to support mental health and wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Empowering communities to be involved and engaged in decision making processes that impact on their health and wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Built environments that support health and wellbeing for all through improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>access to quality public realm and green infrastructure, including open space and effective use of shade, vegetation and sustainable water use</li> <li>public infrastructure (for example walking and cycling paths, functional street scapes, recreation spaces, smoke free environments and accessible services)</li> <li>urban planning that promotes active travel and public transport</li> <li>accessibility and availability of healthy food.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓		
Policies and programs to improve community safety for all	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The development of all-ages friendly communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public health and wellbeing strategies in remote Aboriginal communities, in consultation with Aboriginal communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Physical and mental wellbeing promotion strategies in settings such as schools, childcare centres, sport and recreation facilities, community centres, health facilities, prisons and workplaces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reducing exposure to environmental pollutants in air, water and soil and in the built environment.	✓				
Activities to improve mental health and wellbeing and respond to intergenerational trauma, grief and loss and disconnection to land and community for Aboriginal people	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policies and practices that support cultural diversity and address racism		✓	✓		
Partnerships in local communities to prevent and reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Find out more** **w:** [aedc.gov.au](http://aedc.gov.au) **w:** [education.sa.gov.au/aedc](http://education.sa.gov.au/aedc) **e:** [Education.AEDCTeam@sa.gov.au](mailto:Education.AEDCTeam@sa.gov.au)