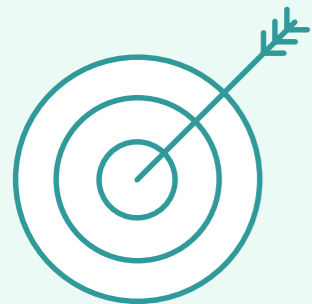


# SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S EARLY LEARNING STRATEGY REPORT CARD – YEAR 1



## OBJECTIVES

Through our engagement with families, communities, our staff, government agencies and key sector organisations, we heard that South Australians value and aspire to have clear and collaborative leadership of early childhood development and learning and:

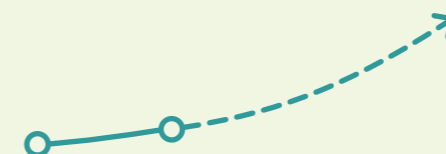
1. readily accessible quality universal support for child development
2. responsive local programs and services supporting community priorities
3. strong support for families as their children's first teachers
4. reduced barriers and increased participation in early childhood education and care services
5. quality teaching and learning in preschools
6. consistent strategic leadership
7. responsive system support

## KEY ACTIONS

Of the 48 actions over the 10 year life of the strategy:



**6 actions  
are complete**



**30 actions  
are on track**



**12 future  
actions**

## ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR



**2.1** - A new [Children's centres outcomes framework](#) has been developed with Children's Centre directors and partner agencies and was launched in June 2022.



**2.2** - 2009-18 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data is now available on [Location SA](#), newly released 2021 data upload pending.



**2.6** - Partnered with the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) to provide grants and support for local councils to increase the proportion of children developmentally on track by building the capacity of councils to respond to the AEDC data through improved services and programs. 12 successful community grant recipients notified in April 2022.



**3.1** - Established a two-year grant funding agreement with Playgroup SA in 2021 to deliver new universal (rather than targeted) community playgroups, as well as upgrading the quality of existing playgroups.



**3.6** - Established a two-year grant funding agreement with Raising Literacy Australia in 2021 to build an early learning coalition of government and non-government providers to develop and disseminate clear and consistent early childhood development messages and resources to families in the 0-3 years space. New department preschool promotion and enrolment campaign underway.



**6.1** - Established and recruited a new dedicated Quality Preschool Leadership Team, which is engaging with sites and local education teams on early years instructional leadership.



## ACTIONS IN PROGRESS



**1.1/1.2** - Co-design of two child development screening pilot programs commencing from July 2022, with additional pilots being scoped. Funding for CaFHS for additional staff and service improvement initiatives.

**1.4** - Development of a framework for the commissioning of services to support the expansion of the childhood development screening system, to include a schedule inclusive of checks at 12 months and 3 years of age.

**1.5/1.8** - Development of an Early Years app that will facilitate child development check reminders, milestone prompts, immunisation reminders and connections to other services, activities and information.

**2.3 /2.5** - Partnered with LGASA, and engaged with individual councils and community stakeholders to support use of AEDC data in communities through presentation of AEDC results.

**2.4** - Ongoing promotion of 2021 AEDC data release through stakeholder channels, the state-wide Healthy Development Adelaide forum, professional learning, and the department's webpage About the [Australian Early Development Census](#).

**2.7** - Inaugural orientation session delivered for new children's centre leaders and local education teams to support consistent approach and understanding of the role and purpose of children's centres. Partnering with CAFHS to identify preschool and school sites where community health services could be delivered.

**3.3** - Negotiating an organisational membership of Playgroup SA for all department playgroups; one benefit will be that all members will be mapped on the [Playgroup SA Find a Playgroup](#) webpage.

**3.4** - Partnering with Wellbeing SA to develop accessible and high-quality resources for parents and playgroup facilitators. Will also identify professional development opportunities for playgroup facilitators to improve playgroup quality.

**3.7** -RLA 0-3 taskforce established and commenced developing key messages for parents, engaging with parent focus groups and Playgroup SA to test messaging impact. Department launch of [Parent Engagement in Learning](#) strategy.

**4.2** - Project underway to improve access and participation of Aboriginal children in preschool education. Launch of a [preschool enrolment campaign](#) that includes targeted Aboriginal and Children in Care approaches.

**4.6** - Established a new function to work with communities, local and Commonwealth governments on finding local child care solutions in regional areas. Providing tools, support and some grant funding to facilitate communities preparing business cases or applying for Commonwealth grants.

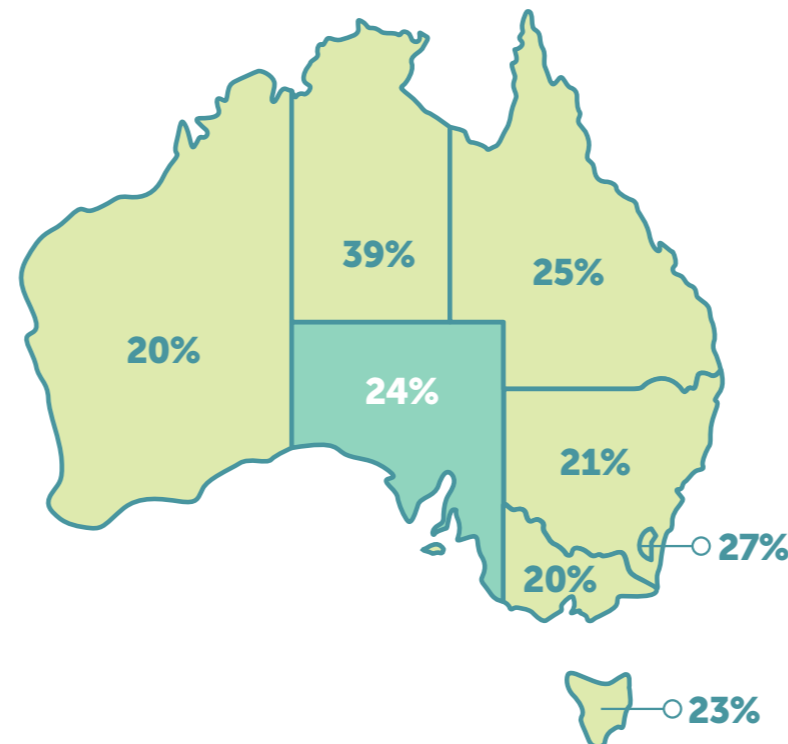
**5.1-5.3** - Resources in development designed by educators for educators. Utilization of seconded preschool teachers to develop preschool curriculum and learning resources across key domains including content, pedagogical repertoire and learning trajectories.

**6.2** - Preschools and local education teams contributed to consultation on the position statement for South Australian quality preschools in 2021 and co-design of the statement is now underway.

**6.3** - Early years research areas have been identified and initial planning is underway for distilling and disseminating evidence to support education leadership to support evidence-based practices in preschool programs.

**7.3** - An options paper has been developed for the introduction of a system-wide parent health questionnaire on enrolment to preschool and school.

Percentage and number of children developmentally vulnerable in 2021



## KEY ACTIONS TO COMMENCE IN THE NEXT 2-5 YEARS

**1.3** - Educate families about multiple referral pathways where accessible, including private providers, National Disability Scheme (NDIS), community- and hospital- based services

**4.3** - Identify and reduce barriers to early childhood education and care services for children and families with complex needs (for example, in partnership with the early childhood education and care sector, support to access additional child care subsidy and enrol in early learning centres)

**5.4** - Strengthen professional development for preschool staff, including in educational programming and delivery, and for leaders of integrated sites

**5.5** - Develop and roll out supporting resources to enhance teaching and learning practices in preschools in line with the approved national learning frameworks

**5.6** - Develop system-wide strategic guidance on continuity of learning for children transitioning into preschool and school

**5.7** - Design and establish a system of local review for preschools

**5.8** - Agree and implement practice evaluation tools for preschools and local education teams to enable shared understanding of preschool process quality, for example Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) or Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

**6.4** - Design and deliver professional development for leaders of preschools, local education teams and departmental staff

**6.5** - Share learning tools between government and non-government service providers

**7.4** - Develop resources for supporting children with diverse needs and backgrounds, with a focus on opportunities to build on the strengths that they bring

**7.5** - Explore solutions and new models of governance and administrative management support, such as fee for service

**7.6** - Develop system-wide process guidance on children transitioning into preschool and school, including between government and non-government sectors

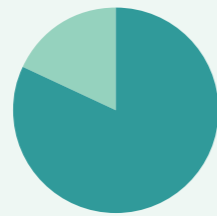


# EARLY LEARNING STRATEGY OUTCOMES MEASURES

## OUTCOME MEASURE

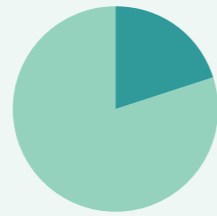
## 2021 BASELINE

Increase the number of South Australian children accessing child development screenings



**Birth - 4 weeks**  
**82% of newborns**

Subsequent checks are % of the 82% of children who are screened at birth:



**6-months**  
**20%**



**18-months**  
**9%**



**Preschool health check**  
**37%**

Source: CaFHS Electronic Client Health Information Management System database 2021  
\*data does not capture checks undertaken by other health practitioners

Increase the enrolment and attendance rate of 3 and 4-year-old Aboriginal children and children in care accessing preschool

		% of eligible children enrolled*	Attendance rate of enrolled children**
Aboriginal Students	Age 3	64%***	69%
	Age 4	99%***	72%
Children in care	Age 3	31%	83%
	Age 4	54%	86%

Sources: Department for Education, Data, Reporting and Analytics' preschool data collection Term 2, 2021 and Children in Care population data provided by Department for Child Protection for the same period.

\* The percentage of children enrolled in a department preschool, in a cohort's respective Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census population data.

\*\* Percentage of total attendance hours in total enrolled hours.

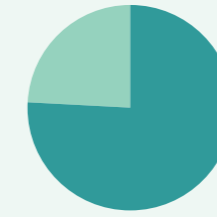
\*\*\* Recording whether a person is Aboriginal, or Torres Strait Islander origin in the ABS Census is voluntary and may lead to lower population numbers recorded, thus resulting in a higher enrolment to population rate.

## OUTCOME MEASURE

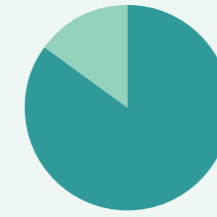
## 2021 BASELINE

Increase the proportion of government preschools rated as 'exceeding' for Quality Area 1 Educational Program and Practice, Quality Area 5 Relationships with Children, and Quality Area 7 Governance and Leadership under the National Quality Framework

**Preschools/Kindergartens/Children's Centres exceeding NQS quality areas**



**QA1 = 76%**



**QA5 = 85%**



**QA7 = 64%**

Source: Department for Education system-wide preschools/kindergartens/children's centres quality area data collection June 2021

Deliver ongoing improvement in government preschool programs as measured by an agreed process quality tool

Tool to be developed

Increase parent satisfaction as measured by the government preschool parent survey

The existing parent satisfaction survey system is being revised and data collected from future surveys will be used to measure parent satisfaction.

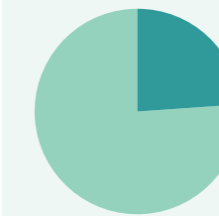
Increase the proportion of South Australian children assessed as 'developmentally on track' across all Australian Early Development Census developmental domains



**53.7% of children in South Australia were on track in all five AEDC domains in 2021**

Source: 2021 AEDC National Report

Reduce the proportion of South Australian children assessed as 'developmentally vulnerable' on 1 or more Australian Early Development Census developmental domains



**23.8% of children in South Australia were vulnerable on 1 or more AEDC domains in 2021**

Source: 2021 AEDC National Report