

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK



## Purpose of this framework

This framework outlines **why** and **how** we work with our stakeholders to make department-level decisions that support our purpose of children and students learning and thriving.

## Why we engage

### Engaging in genuine partnerships for impact

Our strategy for public education in South Australia outlines the importance of working in partnership with our learners, families, communities and organisations to build, strengthen and support the relationships needed to achieve impact.

We know that through **collaborative effort** and the deliberate approach to learn with and from each other, being **open minded** to advice from experts, including those with lived experience, and by developing the confidence and understanding to **be more than the sum of our parts**, we can support our children and students to learn and thrive.

In this context partnerships refers to the relationship with stakeholders, which may include but is not restricted to formally agreed ways of working.

### We engage to:

- create agency and pursue equity
- accurately identify and understand issues and opportunities
- hear diverse perspectives on issues facing public education in South Australia
- design and deliver policies, programs and services that work for those they affect
- ensure that those who have a stake in our work, contribute to, understand and support that work.

## How we engage

We apply an **open, collaborative and considered approach to engagement**, in line with the South Australian Government's *Better Together: Principles of Engagement* and underpinned by the *International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation*.

### Our approach to engagement reinforces the **guiding principles** set by our strategy for public education



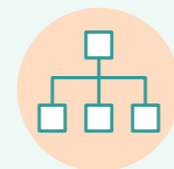
Demonstrates our commitment to **collective responsibility** by providing a clear mechanism to learn from and with our stakeholders.



Supports and strengthens our **learning system** by allowing us to leverage the expertise of our stakeholders and be open minded to advice from experts, including those with lived experience.



Helps us **evaluate for impact** by giving us a clear feedback loop to help build and share our knowledge, data and evidence of the difference we are making to our learners.



Is **tight and flexible** by ensuring that our purpose remains at the heart of our engagement whilst understanding that our engagement approaches should be iterative and adaptable.



Allows us to build the **trust** of our learning system community and to help us **verify** and continually improve outcomes.

## Our investment

To deliver our commitment and approach to engagement, we invest in:



### People and practice

- Professional development and capacity building for staff.
- Investment in professional associations and networks.
- Practical guidance for stakeholder engagement.
- Building and sharing our knowledge of stakeholder perspectives.
- Investment in relationships and partnerships for impact, including with learners.



### Policy and governance

- [Our strategy for public education in South Australia](#)
- [South Australian Public Sector Values](#)
- [Better Together: Principles of Engagement](#)
- [Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan](#)
- System-wide strategies and plans (eg. [Aboriginal Education Strategy](#), [Country Education Strategy](#))
- [Aboriginal Voice: Aboriginal education policy consultation framework](#)
- [Culturally Responsive Framework](#)
- [Governance Framework](#) and [Operational Policy Framework](#)
- Strategic Policy Model (internal guidance) sets expectations for how we deliver quality policy outcomes, in association with our approach to engagement.
- Stakeholder Engagement Corporate Guidelines (internal guidance) supports staff to plan, design and undertake engagement activities.
- Project and Change Management Framework (internal guidance) provides standard tools and processes to help projects and change initiatives reach planned objectives and outcomes in line with departmental priorities.



### Find out more

Contact External Relations  
[Education.ExternalRelations@sa.gov.au](mailto:Education.ExternalRelations@sa.gov.au)



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK



## Our stakeholders

Our stakeholders are **our learners, families, communities and organisations** who share our collective responsibility for building an interconnected, world-leading public education system. Our stakeholders **form a rich and diverse learning system community** working together to deliver on our purpose of children and students learning and thriving.

## Underpinned by



### Aboriginal voice

We are committed to **embedding opportunities for Aboriginal voices as part of decision-making**. This aligns with the state government commitments in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and within our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.

As a leader in the education sector, we appreciate that honest and truly collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal people are at the core of meaningful engagement efforts and change, and that relationships are founded on trust and respect. We are committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal communities, stakeholders and organisations, to deliver services and shared outcomes for Aboriginal learners, families and communities across South Australia.



### Inclusion

We are committed to **seeking and supporting inclusive and diverse stakeholder voices** by considering and responding to stakeholder needs and preferences, and seeking the voices of those who are impacted by removing barriers to participation.

When we engage, we consider culture, language, diversity, accessibility, timing, age and learning styles, and use tools and techniques that are engaging and welcoming.

