

Department for Education workforce profile

Issue 15 – Workforce as at June 2026

Prepared by: Workforce Reporting, System Performance Division

The following is a profile of Department for Education employees who were actively employed or on paid leave (unless otherwise stated) as at the last pay day in June 2026.

Source: Data presented in this report is based on the June 2026 Workforce Information Collection prepared for the Office for the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment (OCPSE). A series of adjustments are undertaken in relation to the data to comply with OCPSE reporting rules. Therefore totals may vary from other internal Department for Education publications sourced directly from human resources records.

Notes:

Where the term “other groups” is used within this document specific to school sector employees, this includes relief teachers, hourly paid instructors (HPIs), Education Act negotiated conditions and seconded teachers.

Where the term “other groups” is used within this document specific to preschool sector employees, this includes relief teachers.

“Full time” employees are those who work greater or equal to 0.98 full time equivalent (FTE).

The term “Aboriginal” has been used within this document and refers to all employees who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

As part of the requirement to ensure confidentiality in departmental reporting, where relevant, the Commissioner for Children and Young People position has been reported as a Public Sector Act appointment.

Permanency rates: If relevant, bus drivers, hourly paid instructors, swimming instructors, temporary relief teachers and other claim paid employees are not included. The workforce on unpaid leave as at 30 June 2025 has been included to give a more inclusive representation of the workforce. Therefore, data provided for this profile may vary from other departmental publications.

More detailed workforce information provided over the last five years is located on the DataSA website at the link below.

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset?organization=dept-for-education>



Overview

Key characteristics of the workforce include:

- 33,569 employees were employed by Department for Education or 26,418.7 full time equivalents (FTEs).
- Employees appointed under the school sector of the *Education and Children's Services Act* account for the largest number of employees in the department (85.0%), followed by the *Public Sector Act* (6.8%), preschool sector of the *Education and Children's Services Act* (6.4%) and *SA Government Services Award* and *SA Government Transport Workers' Award* (1.8%).
- The average age of the workforce was 44 years. Almost half (46.4%) of the workforce were aged forty-five years and over.
- 15,606 or 46.5% worked full time and 17,963 or 53.5% were part time employees.
- Female employees made up 76.9% of employees, while 23.0% were male.
- 918 employees indicated that they were of Aboriginal descent. This represents 2.7% of all Department for Education employees.
- 1,718 employees were on unpaid leave (in addition to the 33,569 employees stated above).
- 2,721 employees ceased working for the department (separated) during 2025/2026 (including contract expired).¹ This represents an apparent retention rate of 93.4% for the financial year.

Department for Education workforce characteristics by employment category

Employment Category	Age Group										
	Male	Female	Other	Aboriginal	Average age	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Public Sector Act (total)	683	1585	6	78	44	3	224	570	741	498	238
Education & Childrens Services Act (Preschool Sector total)	43	2093	1	63	45	28	166	520	597	546	280
Preschool directors	6	293	-	11	48	-	3	68	95	98	35
Preschool teachers (including temporary relief teachers)	18	740	-	9	45	-	55	226	214	164	99
Early Childhood Workers	19	1060	1	43	45	28	108	226	288	284	146
Education & Childrens Services Act (School Sector total)	6466	22051	35	768	43	381	4719	6999	6821	6007	3625
School Sector Principals	197	364	1	5	51	-	3	61	178	226	94
School sector other leaders (deputy principals, seniors, band B leaders)	882	1906	3	39	43	-	178	1038	828	596	151
School sector teachers (advanced skill teachers, highly accomplished teachers, itinerant teacher, lead teacher, permanent relieving teacher, school teacher, temporary relief teacher)	3557	10450	12	128	43	-	2508	4017	3207	2468	1819
School sector other groups (Hourly paid instructors, swimming instructors, Education Act negotiated conditions and seconded teachers)	213	690	1	18	47	39	71	120	230	274	170
School services officers	1518	8374	17	211	43	338	1875	1674	2296	2379	1347
Aboriginal education workers (Aboriginal community education officers)	99	267	1	367	41	4	84	89	82	64	44
Other (total)	532	70	4	9	56	8	27	41	82	166	282
Government services employees	449	30	4	9	53	8	27	38	75	148	187
Driver/Bus driver	83	40	-	-	65	-	-	3	7	18	95
TOTAL	7724	25799	46	918	44	420	5136	8130	8241	7217	4425

¹ Some of these employees have a separation reason of "contract expired" and may be re-employed at a later stage.

Department for Education workforce employment characteristics by employment category

Employment Category	FTE	Persons	Full time	Part time	Unpaid Leave	Separations
Public Sector Act (total)	2081.2	2274	1653	621	206	344
Education & Children's Services Act (Preschool Sector total)	1365.7	2137	451	1686	80	106
Preschool directors	273.6	299	208	91	3	6
Preschool teachers (including temporary relief teachers)	512.5	758	164	594	30	41
Early childhood workers	579.6	1080	79	1001	47	59
Education & Children's Services Act (School Sector total)	22583.3	28552	13328	15224	1413	2146
School Sector Principals	559.6	562	555	7	11	16
School sector other leaders (deputy principals, seniors, band B leaders)	2711.2	2791	2453	338	50	46
School sector teachers (advanced skill teachers, highly accomplished teachers, itinerant teacher, lead teacher, permanent relieving teacher, school teacher, temporary relief teacher)	11456.4	14019	7870	6149	656	846
School sector other groups (Hourly paid instructors, swimming instructors, Education Act negotiated conditions and seconded teachers)	610.2	904	445	459	18	32
School services officers	6965.9	9909	1877	8032	603	1161
Aboriginal education workers (Aboriginal community education officers)	280.0	367	128	239	75	45
Other (total)	388.5	606	174	432	19	125
Government services employees	338.5	483	172	311	19	121
Driver/Bus driver	50.0	123	2	121	-	4
TOTAL	26418.7	33569	15606	17963	1718	2721

Permanency Rates

Permanency relates to the status of the employee, not the appointment the employee is holding. At any point in time a proportion of the permanent workforce will be on leave (paid or unpaid) or have temporarily reduced their fraction of time worked or have been seconded to a non-school site. In these instances, a vacancy may be created and then filled on a temporary basis by another employee. However, the permanent employee still retains the right to permanent employment with the department resulting in the vacancy only being able to be filled on a temporary basis. The overall impact of the permanent workforce taking leave or reducing hours worked is an increase in the temporary workforce to cover many of the vacancies that result.

The impact is illustrated below for the total workforce as well as for each specific cohort.

N.B the formula will vary depending on the classification profiled

Permanency rates, June 2026

	June 2026
Overall total workforce (summary)	
Permanent	20014
Temporary	13793
- minus backfill for employees who were permanent and on leave	1707
- where applicable minus backfill for employees who were permanent, seconded to a nonschool site and actively employed	467
- where applicable minus B type change in time vacancies - teachers allocated	468
Revised Temporary	11151
Total	31165
% Permanent	64.2

June 2026

Public Sector Act

Permanent	1717
Temporary	761
- minus backfill for PS Act who were permanent and on leave	205
Revised temporary	556
Total	2273
Permanency rate	75.5

June 2026

Preschool teachers/leaders

Permanent	584
Temporary	386
-minus backfill for teachers who were permanent and on leave	49
=-minus backfill for teachers who were permanent, seconded to a non-school/preschool site and actively employed	0
-minus B type change in time vacancies - teachers allocated	29
Revised Temporary	308
Total	892
Permanency rate	65.5

June 2026

Early childhood workers

Permanent	262
Temporary	783
- minus backfill for ECWs who were permanent and on leave	28
- minus backfill for ECWs who were permanent, seconded to a non-school/preschool site and actively employed	2
Revised temporary	753
Total	1015
Permanency rate	25.8

June 2026

School sector teachers/leaders

Permanent	12048
Temporary	4810
- minus backfill for teachers who were permanent and on leave	1014
- minus backfill for teachers who were permanent, seconded to a non-school/preschool site and actively employed	440
- minus B type change in time vacancies - teachers allocated	439
Revised Temporary	2917
Total	14965
Permanency rate	80.5

June 2026

School services officers

Permanent	4883
Temporary	6568
- minus backfill for SSOs who were permanent and on leave	348
-minus backfill for SSOs who were permanent, seconded to a non-school/preschool site and actively employed	8
Revised temporary	6212
Total	11095
Permanency rate	44.0

June 2026

Government services employees/Driver

Permanent	256
Temporary	248
- minus backfill for GSEs/drivers who were permanent and on leave	20
- minus backfill for GSEs/drivers who were permanent, seconded to a non-school/preschool site and actively employed	3
Revised temporary	225
Total	481
Permanency rate	53.2

June 2026

Aboriginal education workers

Permanent	264
Temporary	237
- minus backfill for AEWs who were permanent and on leave	43
- minus backfill for AEWs who were permanent, seconded to a non-school/preschool site and actively employed	14
Revised temporary	180
Total	444
Permanency rate	59.5

Aboriginal Education Workers who work for Aboriginal Education are in their actual positions they are not seconded to a non school site and are therefore not included in the revised temporary category adjustment - 'where applicable minus backfill for employees who were permanent, seconded to a nonschool site and actively employed'

Portfolio profile

The following tables provide a comparative analysis of key workforce characteristics across Department for Education portfolios.

Department for Education workforce characteristics by portfolio

Portfolio	FTE	Persons	Full time	Part time	Female	Male	Other	Aboriginal	Average age	<30 years	30-44 years	45-59 years	60+ years
Berri	481.1	600	279	321	472	127	1	19	43	115	225	200	60
Felixstow 1	1105.8	1378	740	638	1015	357	6	5	42	270	509	443	156
Felixstow 2	853.5	1075	497	578	840	234	1	14	43	192	380	374	129
Felixstow 3	805.7	980	514	466	716	264	-	14	43	160	388	325	107
Felixstow 4	1022.5	1230	661	569	945	284	1	10	44	186	456	435	153
Flinders Park 1	201.7	225	163	62	158	67	-	67	41	74	58	62	31
Flinders Park 2	1161.7	1452	675	777	1092	360	-	41	44	221	521	505	205
Flinders Park 3	1008.4	1225	624	601	928	295	2	26	44	156	492	441	136
Flinders Park 4	1266.8	1550	750	800	1188	359	3	39	43	271	619	473	187
Gawler 1	904.6	1141	485	656	925	214	2	22	43	211	411	396	123
Gawler 2	345.8	472	176	296	391	81	-	8	46	62	169	165	76
Kadina	485.0	633	261	372	513	119	1	19	43	124	221	208	80
Mount Barker 1	715.0	902	423	479	684	218	-	6	44	136	342	324	100
Mount Barker 2	929.3	1131	604	527	821	309	1	7	44	161	424	394	152
Mount Gambier 1	718.0	906	399	507	747	157	2	22	43	160	340	326	80
Mount Gambier 2	283.2	392	129	263	326	66	-	7	45	51	135	138	68
Murray Bridge 1	274.9	371	133	238	311	60	-	8	43	66	147	98	60
Murray Bridge 2	518.3	633	300	333	487	144	2	34	44	98	233	209	93
Noarlunga 1	724.2	897	413	484	693	204	-	8	45	122	326	332	117
Noarlunga 2	1115.2	1367	677	690	1011	356	-	24	43	237	539	443	148
Noarlunga 3	658.7	807	378	429	596	210	1	27	42	138	319	271	79
Noarlunga 4	957.9	1189	545	644	924	265	-	28	43	188	482	396	123
Para Hills 1	978.9	1201	592	609	963	236	2	67	41	260	489	330	122
Para Hills 2	1356.2	1658	794	864	1343	310	5	51	40	392	678	463	125
Para Hills 3	1088.1	1318	657	661	1030	288	-	37	42	245	530	397	146
Para Hills 4	628.6	785	364	421	612	173	-	18	41	192	276	248	69
Pirie	366.7	459	200	259	374	85	-	16	43	84	171	142	62
Port Augusta 1	503.9	605	297	308	467	133	5	72	44	111	205	192	97
Port Augusta 2 / Whyalla	457.2	574	235	339	469	104	1	26	43	116	204	188	66
Port Lincoln 1	506.5	658	248	410	533	124	1	23	43	122	244	211	81
Port Lincoln 2	266.8	352	133	219	274	78	-	16	46	58	104	128	62
Other *	3728.5	5403	2260	3143	3951	1443	9	137	47	577	1814	1880	1132
TOTAL	26418.7	33569	15606	17963	25799	7724	46	918	44	5556	12451	11137	4425
% or average of workforce	825.6	1049	46%	54%	77%	23%	1%	2.7%	NA	17%	37%	33%	13%

NB. includes employees who were active or on paid leave only

* includes portfolios defined as Inclusive Teaching and Learning, International Education Services, Other (Administrative), Other (Educational), Regional Support Services, Schools and Preschools, Student Pathways, Office for the Early Years Customer and Information Services, Curriculum Services, and Commissioner for Children & Young People
Source: Department Location Sites & Services data base (LSS)

Department for Education workforce by portfolio and employment characteristics

Portfolio	Permanent	Contingent	Separations	Unpaid leave
Berri	375	225	46	29
Felixstow 1	774	604	94	68
Felixstow 2	598	477	71	30
Felixstow 3	642	338	75	46
Felixstow 4	807	423	102	58
Flinders Park 1	97	128	55	41
Flinders Park 2	832	620	121	64
Flinders Park 3	790	435	92	42
Flinders Park 4	862	688	134	63
Gawler 1	665	476	96	49
Gawler 2	256	216	33	17
Kadina	378	255	45	32
Mount Barker 1	512	390	85	39
Mount Barker 2	720	411	86	49
Mount Gambier 1	555	351	75	42
Mount Gambier 2	220	172	13	13
Murray Bridge 1	182	189	38	25
Murray Bridge 2	383	250	50	34
Noarlunga 1	568	329	53	45
Noarlunga 2	833	534	95	73
Noarlunga 3	463	344	82	47
Noarlunga 4	772	417	90	68
Para Hills 1	689	512	90	68
Para Hills 2	928	730	126	93
Para Hills 3	772	546	110	69
Para Hills 4	418	367	78	40
Pirie	284	175	40	22
Port Augusta 1	367	238	68	41
Port Augusta 2 / Whyalla	318	256	46	29
Port Lincoln 1	368	290	43	51
Port Lincoln 2	202	150	39	17
Other *	2149	3254	450	314
TOTAL	18779	14790	2721	1718
% of workforce	56%	44%	8%	5%

* includes portfolios defined as Inclusive Teaching and Learning, International Education Services, Other (Administrative), Other (Educational), Regional Support Services, Schools and Preschools, Student Pathways, Office for the Early Years Customer and Information Services, Curriculum Services, and Commissioner for Children & Young People
Source: Department Location Sites & Services data base (LSS)

Department for Education workforce by portfolio and classification

Portfolio	Public Sector Act	Education & Children's Services Act (Preschool Sector total)		Education & Children's Services Act (School Sector total)		(School	Government services employees/ drivers/ bus drivers	Total
		Teaching workforce	Early childhood workers	Teaching workforce	School services officers	Aboriginal education workers		
Berri	1	17	17	311	222	10	22	600
Felixstow 1	-	44	29	951	336	2	16	1378
Felixstow 2	2	47	34	573	396	8	15	1075
Felixstow 3	2	23	27	592	315	6	15	980
Felixstow 4	-	38	29	791	357	3	12	1230
Flinders Park 1	28	-	-	96	36	57	8	225
Flinders Park 2	3	36	49	869	457	19	19	1452
Flinders Park 3	-	60	35	743	363	9	15	1225
Flinders Park 4	6	35	45	860	570	19	15	1550
Gawler 1	3	40	42	586	421	8	41	1141
Gawler 2	-	14	32	231	168	3	24	472
Kadina	-	20	37	319	232	6	19	633
Mount Barker 1	1	30	23	506	315	2	25	902
Mount Barker 2	-	44	22	703	343	2	17	1131
Mount Gambier 1	2	26	33	466	355	6	18	906
Mount Gambier 2	-	17	23	192	139	4	17	392
Murray Bridge 1	-	12	8	184	145	2	20	371
Murray Bridge 2	2	21	29	338	216	10	17	633
Noarlunga 1	1	46	23	497	301	5	24	897
Noarlunga 2	5	51	43	786	451	7	24	1367
Noarlunga 3	1	41	33	407	305	8	12	807
Noarlunga 4	3	42	32	625	455	14	18	1189
Para Hills 1	3	33	41	639	451	20	14	1201
Para Hills 2	-	31	33	845	718	23	8	1658
Para Hills 3	2	31	34	719	499	18	15	1318
Para Hills 4	-	24	18	401	316	8	18	785
Pirie	3	25	25	224	159	8	15	459
Port Augusta 1	1	22	17	288	235	20	22	605
Port Augusta 2/Whyalla	1	27	42	243	232	11	18	574
Port Lincoln 1	-	25	35	317	229	8	44	658
Port Lincoln 2	2	12	26	170	106	6	30	352
Other *	2202	123	164	2804	66	35	9	5403
TOTAL	2274	1057	1080	18276	9909	367	606	33569
% of workforce	6.8%	3.1%	3.2%	54.4%	29.5%	1.1%	1.8%	100%

* includes portfolios defined as Inclusive Teaching and Learning, International Education Services, Other (Administrative), Other (Educational), Regional Support Services, Schools and Preschools, Student Pathways, Office for the Early Years Customer and Information Services, Curriculum Services, and Commissioner for Children & Young People
Source: Department Location Sites & Services data base (LSS)

For further information

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A copy of the report can be found at

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/departments/research-and-data/workforce-reports/workforce-profiles>