

Fact Sheet

Australian Early Development Census



Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

What is the Australian Early Development Index? (AEDC)

The AEDC is a national population progress measure of early childhood development (previously known as the AEDI). The AEDC population is all children in the first year of full-time schooling (Prep in Queensland) within a community or a geographic area.

The purpose of the AEDC is to measure the health and development of populations of children to help communities assess how well they are doing in supporting young children and their families. It provides information about how communities have raised their children before school and pinpoints strengths in communities as well as what can be improved.

The AEDC data for a community are reported and analysed at the suburb level (local community) of where children live. The AEDC results are geographically mapped to illustrate patterns of strengths and vulnerabilities of children based on the scores from the teacher-completed checklist. The following five domains are measured by the AEDC:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge

What does the AEDC mean for Catholic education?

The AEDC data is collected every three years. Teachers of Prep students enrolled in Catholic schools in Queensland completed the online AEDC checklist in 2009, 2012 and 2015. Teachers are provided with professional development and teacher release time to complete the checklists. Catholic schools are encouraged to develop partnerships with early childhood education and care services and local community agencies to address areas of need identified in the AEDC data.

Links

For more information visit the [AEDC](http://www.aedc.gov.au) website.